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The First Methodist
Church

Carthage, Texas

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1855 - 1962

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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

DEDICATION

With devotion and appreciation, this book is dedicated to the memory of those who with faith and courage laid the plan for a House of Worship. The heritage of these forefathers has continued for more than a century to support the work of The Methodist Church in Carthage. Under these leaders, with faith and guidance of the Heavenly Father, Methodism grows.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Carthage, Texas

CORRECTION

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- 1859 - William W. Caulder, Pastor of First Methodist
Church, Carthage, Texas
William K. Wilson, Carthage Circuit
- 1860 - William W. Caulder, First Methodist Church
William K. Wilson, Carthage Circuit

Page 42

- 1947 - A. C. Bell, Pastor of First Methodist Church,
Carthage, Texas
S. S. McKinney, District Superintendent
- 1948 - A. C. Bell, First Methodist Church
S. S. McKinney, District Superintendent
- 1949 - A. C. Bell, First Methodist Church
Joe Z. Tower, District Superintendent

The following are young men from Panola County
who have entered the ministry of the Methodist
Church.

William E. Hull	1919
C. A. Mangham	1921-1938
C. A. Mangham, Jr.	1946
C. Eugene Cariker	1948

On November 5, 1946, Annual Conference met in
Houston, Texas. During this session the time
for meeting of Annual Conference was changed
to June.

PREFACE

We have presented to you in this collection of articles the history of the Methodist Church in Carthage, covering the years from 1855 when the organization was called The Methodist Society to the present, 1962, when it bears the name The Methodist Church.

What has been written is based on experiences and facts of historical interest collected from varied sources. These materials were hard to find. Few records were kept in the early days of the Church, and some were lost. Notes from personal files and quotations from reminiscences of older people have furnished much of the information used in this account. Here and there reports were taken from the minutes of church conferences, and many local happenings came from articles and clippings taken from files of early issues of the *Panola Watchman*. Information concerning annual conferences, presiding bishops, and appointments of district superintendents and pastors was located in church records in the Historical Room at Lakeview.

The inspiration for collecting this material and preserving it in book form came to Mrs. J. G. Strong a number of years ago when she was preparing a program for the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

We hope that in reading this history you will derive a bit of pleasure out of the simple facts and experiences connected with the life and work of The Methodist Church of Carthage. We hope that you will enjoy it, for what it is, not only for your interest in the content but also for the useful information that you might find in the history.

MRS. J. G. STRONG
Collector of Materials

MISS JENNIE MAE CHADWICK
Organizer of Materials

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FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 1860 - 1900

METHODIST CHURCHES OF CARTHAGE

Methodist Church Number I: 1855 - 1900

1. Need for a church for the new county, Panola, which was organized from Harrison County in 1841.
2. Difficulties involving materials and workers because Civil War hindered progress in building the church.
3. Dates, notes of interest, and facts reported on the growth of the church.
4. Names and dates of service of pastors in charge and presiding elders, and the districts and the conferences of the Carthage Church.

Status of the Church

1855—The group of Methodists known as the Methodist Society

1856—Methodists designated as the Panola Circuit

1859—Panola Circuit changed to Carthage Circuit at the fifteenth session of the East Texas Conference

1878—Carthage Circuit made Carthage Station at the thirty-fourth session of the East Texas Conference in Tyler

1886—Carthage Station put on Concord Circuit

1891—Carthage made a station again at forty-seventh session of the East Texas Conference in Henderson with Reverend H. Crawford as pastor and A. J. Frick as presiding elder

Methodist Church Number I: 1855 - 1900

The first Methodist church was built between the years 1855 and 1866, after Texas became a state, Panola County was organized, and Carthage was made a town site. Texas was still a Republic when the Fifth Congress created the Judicial District of Panola County out of Harrison County in 1841. It was not until 1846, when Texas joined the Union, that the first legislature of the State of Texas passed an act creating Panola County out of Harrison and Shelby Counties.

The first county seat of Panola County was Pulaski on the east side of the Sabine River. Dissatisfaction arose because the location of Pulaski was not near the geographical center of the county, so that in 1849 the site of Carthage was chosen by public vote and the town was founded that year.

At this time the county was a solid forest of trees of all kinds. The buildings of the new town—the jail, courthouse, stores, and saloons all were made of logs. There were no churches or school houses. The first courthouse, a frame building, was constructed in 1850. This building was later torn down and replaced by a brick structure that served the county until 1885. All schools were held in the old Masonic Hall situated on a lot joining the present church on the east. This hall was also used by all religious denominations, and when a preacher came to town everybody turned out to hear him.

The Methodists erected the first frame church in Carthage in 1860-1861 on the plot of ground where the First Methodist Church stands today. The following account is taken from an authentic report by the late Judge J. H. Long: Plans were made in 1855 for a Methodist Church. Property was bought from S. B. Dozier on December 15, 1859, for the sum of \$100.00. The Trustees for the building were G. L. Davis, James Heffner, James Crawford, G. W. Lentz, S. D. Mahon, Joseph Fite, James B. Armstrong, D. N. Walker and Sanford Snider.

Construction started on the building before the Civil War, but it was not completed until 1866. Much of the work was done by voluntary labor. The lumber of the building and also the planks used for the benches (pews) was hand drawn. The carpenters were two brothers named Freeman; both stalwart young men. Just as they had finished the building (all except the ceiling) the war broke out. They both laid down their saws and hammers and marched to the front, but neither returned.

This building was for many years used by the Methodist and Missionary Baptist denominations. Later the Baptists erected a building on Wellington Street known as the First Baptist Church. There was also a Free Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Carthage before and during the war, near the south end of Shelby Street, but they were numerically and financially too weak to maintain their organization. They sold the building for a public house. Soon afterward it burned down.

Members of the Methodist Church served the Confederacy with honor during the Civil War. The following excerpt is from a letter to Mrs. J. G. Strong from Lindley Beckworth in answer to an inquiry about the men of the Carthage Church who served in the war:

“Carthage did her part in the Civil War. The first company was organized with Captain Craig; Thomas P. Hull, First Lieutenant, and A. J. Booty as Second Lieutenant; with recruits from the entire county joining, coming from these pioneer families . . . Miss Lucinda Williams, aunt of Harry Williams, presented this company with a flag, and it was accepted by Judge Fields.”

Notes of Interest and Facts

- 1855 The group of Methodists was called the Methodist Society.
- 1855 Plans were in the making to build a Methodist Church in Carthage. The East Texas Conference convened in Marshall, Texas, on November 2 with Bishop Pierce presiding.
- 1856 Panola Circuit was designated with G. W. Lentz as pastor.
- 1859 The Panola Circuit was changed to the Carthage Circuit at the fifteenth session of the East Texas Conference in November.
- 1859 On August 20 the Methodist Society held a protracted meeting which was evidently a success. Later property was bought from S. B. Dozier on December 15 and a church was erected on this lot, being completed in 1866. This meeting was possibly held in the Masonic Hall. (This account was taken from the minutes of the First Baptist Church. The minutes stated that the Baptists would be unable to meet on August 20 since the Methodists planned to hold a meeting in the building. Evidently both denominations used the same building. The Baptist Church, formerly located on Wellington Street, was not erected until 1878. Many Baptists attended Methodist prayer meetings.)
- 1870 The twenty-sixth session of the East Texas Conference met in Carthage on November 2, 1870, in the Masonic Hall. The Conference opened with the reading of the third chapter of II Timothy and the singing of the hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive and See Each Other's Face."
- J. R. Bellamy was the pastor in charge. P. E. Lively was presiding elder of the Marshall District. Colonel E. S. Hull entertained thirty-six preachers and delegates at his home, and it was in his yard that Bishop Marvin organized the Texas Conference of the Colored Methodist Church. The name of the church was Mt. Zion.
- 1875 Comment in the *Panola Watchman*: "It does seem to us that in a town the size of Carthage the people, to say nothing of the church members, ought to be able to maintain at least one respectable house of worship and in fact the only church building in the place—a house in which at least two denominations worship—is not decent." Baptists and Methodists attended the same Sunday School. One held regular worship services in the morning; and the other, in the afternoon.

- 1878 Carthage was made a station at the thirty-fourth session of the East Texas Conference at Tyler with Bishop Keene presiding.
- 1875 Annual Conference was entertained in Carthage with Bishop Pierce presiding. Reverend J. C. Bridges was pastor of the church.
- 1880 Reverend J. L. Dawson was pastor. The rolls showed the membership to be 120 for the church and 634 on the circuit.
- 1881 Col. E. S. Hull received a silver chalice as a token for his many years as Sunday School Superintendent and services to the church.
- 1882 The Women's Missionary Society was organized some time between 1880 and 1883. The exact date not known.
- 1883 Carthage Church was united with Concord Circuit.
- 1885 W. L. Pate was pastor of the church from November 1885 until the conference met in Palestine in December 1886.
- 1886 From *Panola Watchman* dated Nov. 10: "We expect to attend the Annual Conference of The Methodist Church which convenes at Palestine, Texas on December 15th. All members of Carthage Church are asked to meet at Sunday School on the first Sunday in next month at 2 P.M. in order that each one may have an opportunity of saying how much he will assess himself for the following year.

"We do not intend to be accessory to the death by starvation of a stationed minister at this place. Moreover, we could not muster up cheek enough to ask the bishop to continue here in view of the miserable pittance raised during the present year for our faithful brother who has labored so earnestly and zealously for us.

"We will certainly be added to Beckville or Concord Circuit unless a sufficient amount is pledged to sustain a station."

From *Panola Watchman* of December 22: "Back on the Concord Circuit. The Methodist Church at this place has been attached to the Concord Circuit for the ensuing year with Reverend Hughes as pastor. Reverend Hughes will live in the parsonage at Woods, the center of the Circuit. Carthage will have the benefit of Reverend Hughes' services once a month provided it does not snow, the creeks get up, or his family get sick. Those members who tried to sustain the sta-

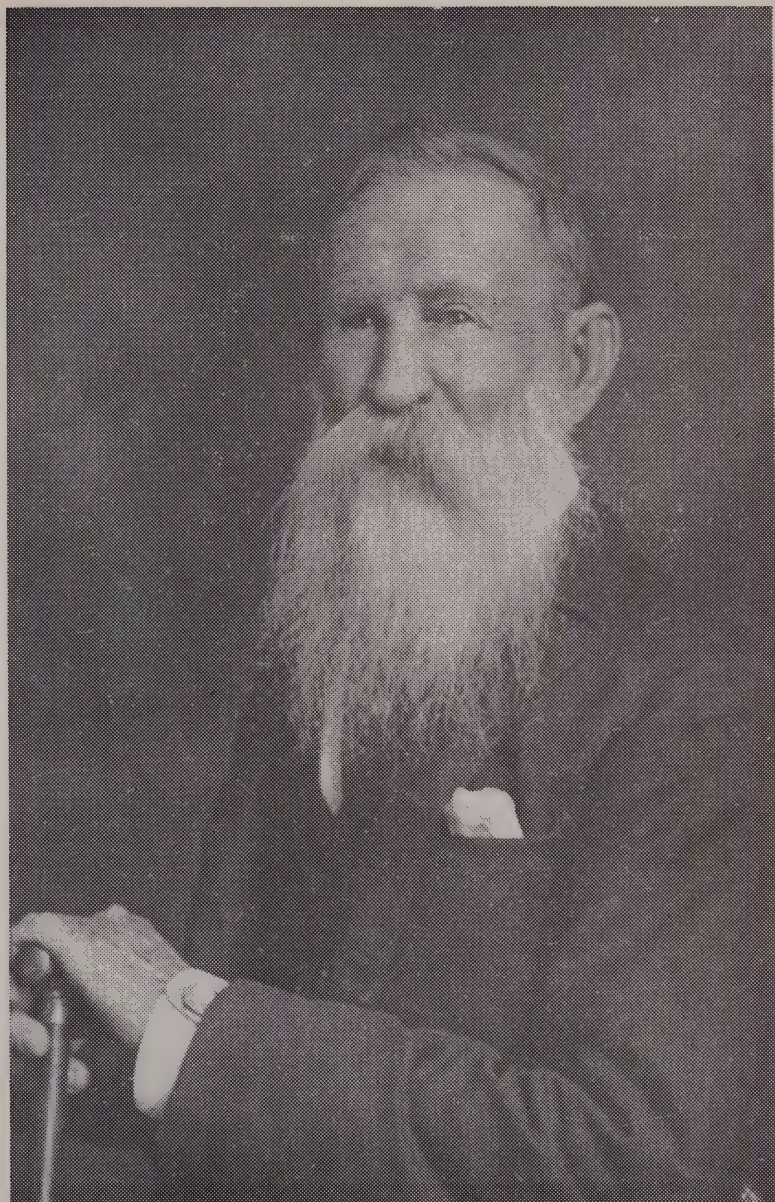
tion are of course very much disappointed, but as good and faithful members of the Cross and free Methodists, they will not complain but will work harmoniously together for the cause of the Master, feeling that it is very unfortunate that our church should be hampered by retaining so many dead beats on the church roll who neither attend on the ordinances of the church nor support the institutions.

"The rolls show a membership of one hundred and contributions amounted to less than \$200 for the support of the pastor in charge, less than the presiding elder's commission and house rent. A few members contributed moderately well, but so many others comparatively nothing that the average is less than two dollars per member, which is a bad showing and should make every member blush with shame, and cause them to make a vow to attend on the church ordinances and support its institutions and keep said vow in the future."

The *Panola Watchman* of September 26 gave the following report:

"The good women of our town have organized a Ladies Aid Society and are now engaged in raising funds to assist in the building of a Methodist parsonage. Such organizations are like ministering angels in a community and should be encouraged by every man and woman in the entire community becoming members or by giving financial aid or both. It is the promise of these aid societies to forward the building of moral and religious institutions, to aid and comfort the sick and distressed, to go on errands of mercy that would not be done except by systematic organizations. The amount of dues necessary to be members in good standing is only five cents per week or two dollars and sixty cents per annum. This amount any citizen who feels an interest in the welfare of the community can pay. We wish the society unbounded success in their noble efforts to do good and may their labors prove as bread cast on the waters to be gathered many days hence."

1886 In the first church the men sat on one side of the aisle and the women on the other. The right side of the pulpit in the southeast corner was designated as the "amen corner," a section occupied by some of the older men. In the northeast corner was a section of the church with a raised floor for the choir. Miss Bet Pollard was organist, and W. L. Walker led the singing. This was also a meeting place for the young people to get together and sing.



COLONEL E. S. HULL
Sunday School Superintendent
1860 - 1881

Other organists for the church were Miss Lillian Hull, Miss Hettie Woodall, and Mrs. Jo Page.

Before the church had an organ the songs were led by some members of the church in what was called "line singing." The pastor would read a line of the hymn, and then the congregation would sing the line. The whole song was done in this manner. Some of the men leading the songs were N. W. Gillaspie and W. L. Walker, and a favorite of this day was "We Are Marching to Zion."

- 1887 Comment from the *Panola Watchman* of November 9: "Owing to disagreeable weather, there was no Sunday School at the Methodist Church last Sunday evening. A few of the young ladies and gentlemen met and had a nice little singing, which was appreciated by ye pencil pusher."
- 1888 Comment from the *Panola Watchman* for December 19: "The children under the management of a few older heads will give an entertainment in Carthage on the 26th in the interest of the Methodist parsonage."
- 1888 On September 29 a portion of land located in southeast Carthage was received by the Methodist Church. Thomas F. Hull was the attorney. The land covered two acres, one acre for the parsonage, and the sum of money for this deal was \$75. Trustees were E. S. Hull, W. L. Walker, and T. L. Anderson.

According to the description in the deed, this land was located in the corner of our present-day streets Cotton and Live Oak.

- 1891 The East Texas Conference convened in Henderson for the forty-seventh session. Carthage Methodist Church was made a station with W. H. Crawford, pastor. A. J. Frick was presiding elder of the San Augustine district.
- 1892 A. A. Wagon served the church. He was also pastor in 1901.
- 1893 Abe Mulkey conducted a meeting in Carthage. He was very critical of the condition of the parsonage, and as a result a new one was built.
- 1893 There is no record of the first church wedding in the early church, but Mrs. Carror Malone remembers the wedding of Mr. H. N. Nelson and Miss Helen Hull which occurred November 3, 1893. Reverend W. F. Davis performed the ceremony.

- 1896 The following announcements were printed in the "Church Directory" of the *Panola Watchman*, April 1:

Epworth League each Sunday 3:00 P. M.

J. H. Long	President
Claude Pollard	First Vice President
Miss Lillian Hull	Secretary

W. F. Davis, Pastor in Charge

Preaching on 1st and 3rd Sunday each month at 11:00 o'clock A. M. and 7 P. M.

Choir practice Saturday nights before 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Communion Service on 1st Sunday after 11:00 o'clock service in each month.

Prayer meeting every Tuesday Night

Sunday School each Sunday at 10:00 A. M.

C. H. Pollard, Supt.

- 1896 June 3, from "Church Directory," *Panola Watchman*:
Rev. W. F. Davis, Pastor in charge, reports on children's services. "The Children of the Methodist Church will have a special service next Sunday Night. These services are always enjoyable and the children never fail to conduct themselves admirably."

- 1897 May 1, from Conference Minutes:

"The League contributes annually to the support of League Missionaries and the Sunday School gives its collection each 1st Sunday to Missionary causes."—W. F. Davis

- 1897 According to Church Minutes, of 1897 to 1900, the pastor of the Carthage church served four rural churches—Clayton, Bethlehem, Pleasant Ridge, and Boren. Pastors were W. F. Davis and J. L. Dawson.

Pastors in Charge, Presiding Elders and District of Conference

1855 - 1900

1855—Methodist Society

1856—G. W. Lentz P. C.

1857—N. S. Johnson P. C.—W. K. Wilson P. E.

1858—John Adams P. C.—W. K. Wilson P. E.

1859—N. W. Chandler P. C.—S. A. Williams P. E.

1860—N. W. Chandler P. C.—S. A. Williams P. E.

1861—W. K. Wilson P. C.—S. A. Williams P. E.

1862—John Adams P. C.—S. A. Williams P. E.

1863—John Adams P. C.—S. A. Williams P. E.

1864—John Patello P. C.—J. R. Burke P. E. San Augustine District

1865—M. G. McAlister P. C.—J. R. Burke P. E. San Augustine
District

1866—M. G. McAlister P. C.—J. R. Burke P. E. San Augustine
District

1867—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—Marshall District

1868—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—Marshall District

1869—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—Marshall District

1870—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—P. E. Lively P. E.—Marshall District

1871—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—P. E. Lively P. E.—San Augustine Dist.

1872—J. R. Bellamy P. C.—J. W. Mills P. E.—San Augustine Dist.

1873—J. C. Bridges P.C.—J. R. Bellamy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1874—J. C. Bridges P.C.—J. R. Bellamy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1875—J. C. Bridges P.C.—J. R. Bellamy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1876—J. M. Mills P.C.—J. R. Bellamy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1877—W. F. Burk P.C.—J. C. Bridges P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1878—J. C. Bridges P.C.—W. A. Sampy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

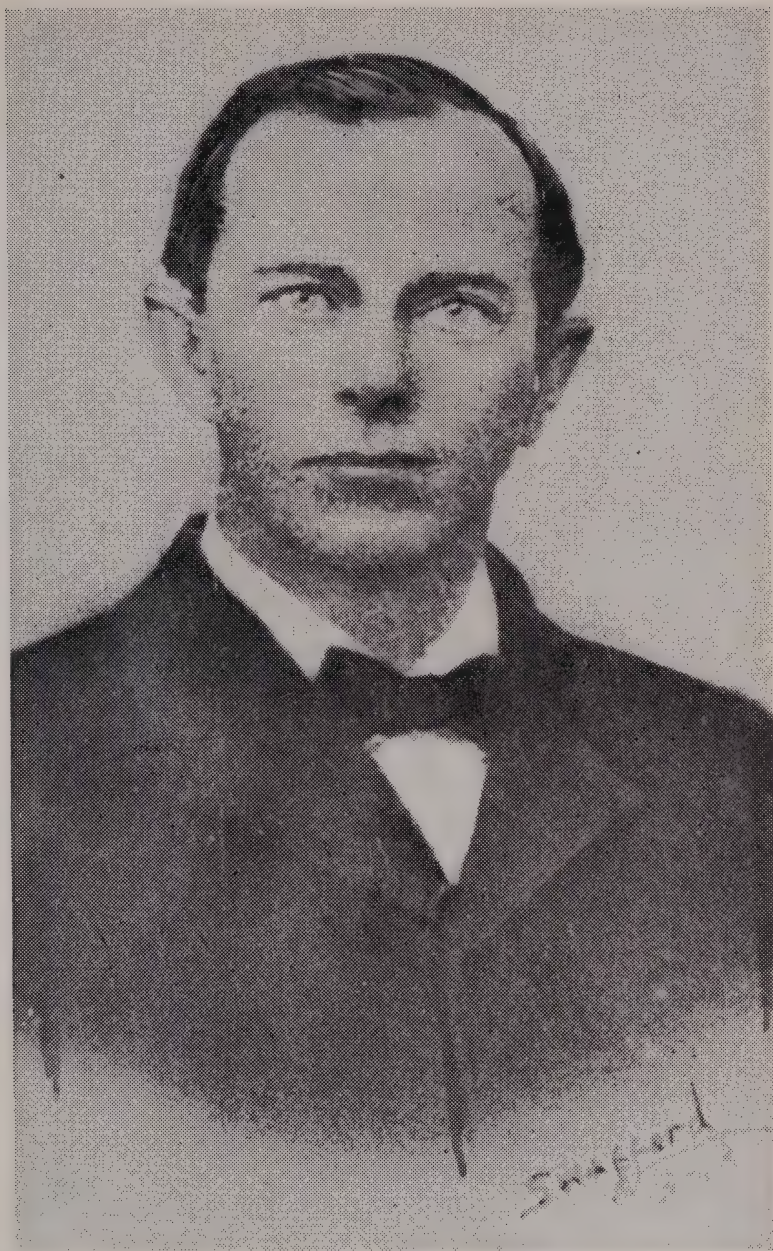
1879—W. F. Burke P.C.—W. A. Sampy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

1880—J. L. Dawson P.C.—W. A. Sampy P.E.—San Augustine Dist.

- 1881—J. M. Carter P. C.—W. A. Sampy P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1882—J. M. Carter P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1883—J. M. Mills P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1884—G. W. Wilson P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1885—W. L. Pate P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1886—G. R. Hughes P. C.—W. B. Patterson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1887—G. R. Hughes P. C.—J. P. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1888—W. H. Ardis P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1889—C. F. Smith P. C.—J. W. Johnson P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1890—L. C. Ellis P. C.—A. J. Frick P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1891—W. H. Crawford P. C.—A. J. Frick P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1892—A. A. Wagon P. C.—A. J. Frick P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1893—W. F. Davis P. C.—C. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1894—W. F. Davis P. C.—C. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1895—W. F. Davis P. C.—C. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1896—W. F. Davis P. C.—C. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1897—J. L. Dawson P. C.—J. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1898—J. L. Dawson P. C.—J. F. Smith P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1899—J. L. Dawson P. C.—A. J. Weeks P. E.—San Augustine District



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 1900 - 1941



REVEREND W. L. PATE
Pastor

1885 - 1886
1902 - 1905

Methodist Church Number II: 1900 - 1941

1. Need for a new church in Carthage
2. Dates, notes of interest, and facts reported in growth and the work of the church
3. Dates of pastors in charge, presiding elders, and names of districts and conferences of the Carthage church.

Progress during the time from 1866 to 1902—increase in the population of the town and growth of the people in education and culture—created the demand for a new place of worship, a building suitable in plan and in beauty for the expanding needs of the people. Plans for a new church of frame construction were made to replace the old one constructed in 1860-1861. The building committee listed the names of J. H. Long, T. E. Boren, and T. L. Anderson.

It was probably a visit to Carthage by Sam Jones that sparked the building of the new church. In Carthage on a commercial lecture tour a year or two before the church was started, he made a point of visiting the Methodist Church, described as a “large, lumbering eyesore” which had stood the march of time since before the Civil War. To Sam Jones the building seemed a disgrace to a progressive Carthage and to the Methodist congregation. In his lecture Mr. Jones derided the Methodists for providing such poor accommodations for serving the Lord, and this comment evidently aroused the members to action.

The erection of the church took place during the service of A. A. Wagon as pastor. It was completed in 1902 when Reverend W. L. Pate was sent to Carthage as the first pastor to serve in the new building. C. A. Tower was made presiding elder of the district by the sixty-third session of the East Texas Conference, which became a part of the Texas Conference at that time. Reverend Tower served as presiding elder until 1905. Two prominent Methodists, J. H. Long and T. L. Anderson, were trustees for the new church.

The location of the church was to the south of the present sanctuary and in front of the present Educational Building. It faced north. The interior was designed in the form of a Greek cross, an architectural design very popular at the turn of the century. Judge Long went to Dallas and bought a silver communion service, consisting of a pitcher and two goblets, to be used in the new building. This treasured service is now on display in the parlor of the Educational Building.

This church was destined to shelter an ever-growing and forward-looking congregation for nearly half a century.

It suffered additions and remodeling, but by 1939 was earmarked for replacement by a handsome brick structure of colonial design.

It is a coincidence, but an interesting one, that this year was one of great importance in the history of Methodism in this country. At this time leaders of Methodist Churches effected a merging of three large branches of the Church in the United States: The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, The Methodist Protestant Church, and The Methodist Episcopal Church. The united church was called The Methodist Church. Reverend Stanley Carter was the first pastor to serve the Carthage congregation after the reorganization. He came to Carthage in 1939 when the church enrollment was 441.

Notes of Interest and Dates

- 1907 During Rev. McClarty's Ministry, Rev. R. Birdwell conducted a meeting from Nov. 15 to Dec. 1, 1907. Seventy-four new members were received in the Methodist Church and 40 other converts joined other churches of the town.
- 1907 "Beginning April 27th and closing May 5th, a Missionary Rally was held by the Methodist Church. Many addresses were made and an abundance of literature was furnished by our Mission Rooms and distributed. I believe the educational effect of this rally is invaluable."
- Charles U. McClarty
- 1909 The first wedding ceremony performed in the sanctuary of church Number II was that of Miss Bessie Long and R. H. Chadwick on November 17, 1909. Reverend Charles U. McClarty performed the ceremony.
- 1912 On October 6 the fourth quarterly conference reported that the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies united. Reverend E. W. Potter pastor, J. W. Mills Presiding Elder.
- 1917 A Revival meeting was held with Reverend Herbert DeLay doing the preaching. Reverend L. J. Powers was pastor this time.
- 1921 During the ministry of Reverend B. T. Bell a large room, built on the south side of the sanctuary, was used for the primary, beginners, and nursery departments. Mrs. P. P. Long was superintendent of the primary and beginners, and Mrs. H. T. Long was superintendent of the nursery department.
- 1923 Reverend J. L. Massey was appointed pastor of the church but was replaced by Reverend Z. R. Fee.
- 1924 Miss Mattye Esther Walker and Mrs. Gussie Forsyth were appointed by Reverend Z. R. Fee to serve on the Board of Stewards. They were the first women to serve the church in this way.
- 1926 Reverend H. B. Smith was appointed pastor. He was replaced by Reverend J. W. Mills, Jr., in 1929.
- 1932 During Reverend C. L. William's ministry the Young Women's Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. Lucian Walker, president, and Mrs. C. L. Williams, sponsor. Because of the enthusiasm and work of this group, the in-

terior of the Sanctuary was remodeled. Space was made for a Junior Department with Mrs. Alice Hawthorn Superintendent. A small kitchen was furnished by Circle One of the Woman's Society.

- 1933 Bishop H. A. Boaz conducted revival services on March 11 with Harry Rankin leading the singing.
- 1939 Knowing the wishes of the membership and official board, the Bishop sent Reverend Stanley Carter to Carthage to lead the way in a building program. Money for this plan had to be raised from the first dollar.

At the First Quarterly Conference in December, 1939, a building committee was elected. R. G. Brown was made Chairman with the following members, Doctor P. B. Koonce, J. G. Strong, Mrs. H. R. Allison, C. E. Moore, A. L. Davis, E. C. Clabaugh and Q. M. Martin.

The committee felt the hand of Divine Providence when it was learned the following month that the late Lee Williamson had left the church an additional building site, two acres of land adjoining the original small church plot on the east. Another boost came in a most liberal contribution to the building program from Mrs. Panthea Wells.

Pastors in Charge, Presiding Elders and District of Conference

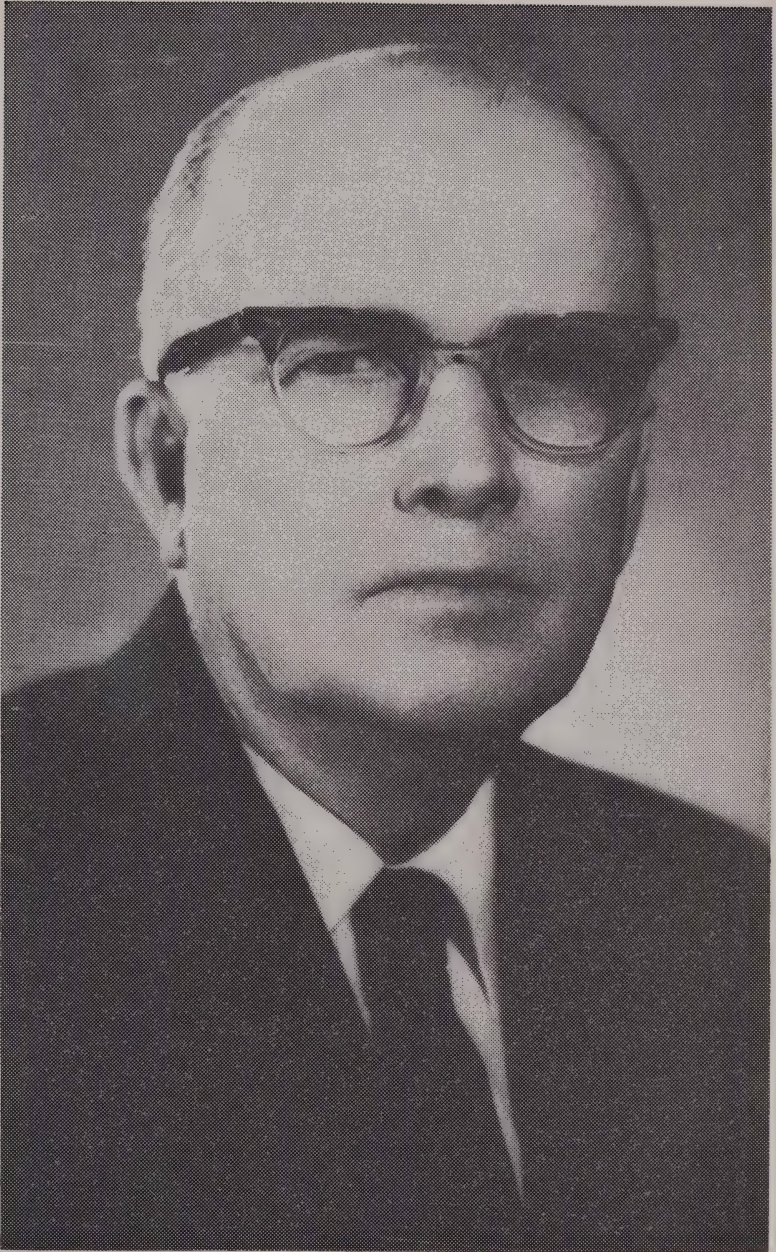
1900 - 1939

- 1900—J. L. Dawson P. C.—A. J. Weeks P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1901—A. A. Wagnon P. C.—A. J. Weeks P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1902—S. F. Chambers P. C.—A. J. Weeks P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1902—W. L. Pate P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1903—W. L. Pate P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1904—W. L. Pate P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1905—A. A. Kidd P. C.—E. L. Shuttles P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1906—C. U. McLarty P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1907—C. U. McLarty P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1908—C. U. McLarty P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1909—C. U. McLarty P. C.—C. A. Tower P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1910—E. W. Potter P. C.—J. W. Mills P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1911—E. W. Potter P. C.—J. W. Mills P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1912—H. L. Hayes P. C.—J. W. Mills P. E.—San Augustine District
- 1913—H. L. Hayes P. C.—J. W. Mills P. E.—Timpson District
- 1914—John W. Goodwin P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Timpson District

1915—John W. Goodwin P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Timpson District
 1916—G. L. Taylor P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Timpson District
 1916—Abner Sage P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Timpson District
 1917—L. J. Power P. C.—E. L. Ingram P. E.—Timpson District
 1918—E. G. Cook P. C.—E. L. Ingram P. E.—Timpson District
 1919—E. G. Cook P. C.—E. L. Ingram P. E.—Timpson District
 1920—E. G. Cook P. C.—E. L. Ingram P. E.—Timpson District
 1921—B. T. Bell P. C.—V. A. Godby P. E.—Timpson District
 1922—B. T. Bell P. C.—H. T. Perritte P. E.—Timpson District
 1923—D. W. Moore P. C.—C. B. Garrett P. E.—Marshall District
 1924—J. L. Massey P. C.—C. B. Garrett P. E.—Marshall District
 1924—Z. R. Fee P. C.—V. A. Godby P. E.—Marshall District
 1925—Z. R. Fee P. C.—V. A. Godby P. E.—Marshall District
 1926—H. B. Smith P. C.—V. A. Godby P. E.—Marshall District
 1927—H. B. Smith P. C.—V. A. Godby P. E.—Marshall District
 1928—H. B. Smith P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1929—H. B. Smith P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1929—J. W. Mills Jr. P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1930—J. W. Mills Jr. P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1931—C. L. Williams P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1932—C. L. Williams P. C.—L. B. Elrod P. E.—Marshall District
 1933—C. L. Williams P. C.—Ira F. Key P. E.—Marshall District
 1934—C. L. Williams P. C.—Ira F. Key P. E.—Marshall District
 1935—F. E. Luker P. C.—Ira F. Key P. E.—Marshall District
 1936—F. E. Luker P. C.—G. H. Wilson P. E.—Marshall District
 1937—Russell Brown P. C.—G. H. Wilson P. E.—Marshall District
 1938—J. L. Bryant P. C.—G. H. Wilson P. E.—Marshall District
 1939—Stanley Carter P. C.—G. H. Wilson P. E.—Marshall District



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 1941 - 1962



REVEREND STANLEY CARTER
Pastor

1939 - 1942

Methodist Church Number III: 1941 - 1962

1. Need for Church Buildings: Sanctuary and Educational Building
2. Facts and Notes of Interest
3. Dates of Pastors in Charge, Presiding Elders, and Names of Districts and Conferences of the Carthage Church

The year 1945 saw the dedication of a new brick Methodist Church, begun in 1941 and completed in 1942. This building was the result of years of planning.

A move for the building of a structure adequate for the needs of the congregation started about the time of World War I, and after nearly twenty years of indecision, plans for the new church were drawn. The idea of a building program would alternately flare and smoulder, resulting in a compromise on repairing or remodeling the old church.

Finally, in 1939, a group of men with both zeal and determination set their hearts and wills with the help of God toward a noble goal, a new house of worship. These men started their task with the help of Reverend Stanley Carter, who was sent to Carthage by Bishop A. Frank Smith for this special task. Committees were appointed, and the work progressed without destructive or controversial hindrance. However, obtaining materials for building was difficult due to the outbreak of war with Japan.

On August 10, 1941, the last service in the old church was held, and workmen started the removal of the old building the next day, August 11. The ground-breaking service for the new church took place on August 12 at 8 A. M. in the presence of members of the Methodist Church and friends from other denominations.

During the summer and fall of 1941 all services of the church were conducted in the public school gymnasium until the completion of the Educational Building in November. Church activities were held there until the sanctuary was finished three months later. The first service was held in the new church on February 22, 1942, when our country had been at war for two months.

Dates and Notes of Interest

- 1941 The new parsonage in the building program was constructed during the summer of 1941.

During the fall of 1941 and spring of 1942 the sanctuary and the Educational Building were erected at a cost of \$40,000. Bishop Hay honored the occasion with his presence and a message when the corner stone was laid.

On August 12 Mrs. Panthea Wells and Judge J. H. Long, the oldest member of the church, took part in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new church. Reverend Carter read an impressive scripture and offered a prayer. Judge Long spaded the first shovel of earth and delivered a brief talk stressing the value of a church to a community, saying in conclusion, "I trust this little shovel full of dirt starts the erection of a Temple of Christianity, not so much to be admired for its beauty and spaciousness but that it may serve as a place of worship for those who would look to God for guidance and deliverance."

- 1942 The new church was completed and opened for service on February 22. The congregation gathered in the Educational Building and marched in line to the new sanctuary singing, "The Church Is One Foundation."

The iron bell that was used first in the Methodist Church erected during the Civil War, and later in the belfry of the church built in 1902, was transferred to the belfry of the present church. Today it hangs there silently, no longer calling the congregation to worship or tolling their funeral messages.

On the day that Mr. R. G. Brown bought steel for constructing the new church the Federal Government took over all the steel for defense purposes. Lindley Beckworth, Congressman from this district, got a permit from Washington in order to get copper for the spire.

(It is of interest to note that the First Methodist Church was built during the Civil War, World War I was fought while the second church was occupied, and the present church was built as we were preparing for World War II.)

The plan of the sanctuary of the church was copied from a church in Massachusetts as a result of a trip to that state by Mr. R. G. Brown. The Youth Building is a copy of a church in Arlington, Virginia.



JUDGE J. H. LONG

Ground-breaking Ceremony—August 12, 1941
Sunday School Superintendent—1905 - 1908

The locks and hinges on the front and side doors of the sanctuary are of solid bronze. They were taken from the old court house in Dallas and given to R. G. Brown by H. T. Hollis.

The English Ivy growing on the First Methodist Church merits the story telling where it came from and how it came to be growing on the church.

Q. M. Martin, who was Red Cross Field Director, served with the Armed Forces during World War II. He was stationed at Fort Belvoir Virginia, which was near Alexandria, Virginia. Here there was an old, historic Pohick-ivy-covered church where George Washington attended services. It was from this old Episcopal Pohick Church that Mr. Martin was fortunate in securing plants that were to grow on the walls of the First Methodist Church of Carthage. The old church was built in 1773. It is now proclaimed a National Shrine of the Purple Heart. George Washington was chairman of the building committee and vestryman. Mr. Martin was told by the rector that the ivy on the church was planted by George Washington himself. At that same time Mt. Vernon was also landscaped, and the plants both there and at Pohick Church were of the same origin.

- 1941 When the church and parsonage were built in 1941, the Women's Society of Christian Service pledged \$1,000 to the building fund. They also bought furniture for the parsonage.
- 1942 The church was built before the gas field was discovered. As the membership was not large, it was difficult to raise money needed for the new plant. Children and youth of the church wanted to share in the project.

The children saved their pennies, nickels, and dimes to make a contribution for the new church. The presentation of their offering was made in the new sanctuary where they marched down the aisle and laid their offering of seventy-five dollars on the altar.

The young people had raised one thousand dollars on the building fund. They bought ceiling fans and one hundred folding chairs for their department.

- 1943 On December 28 a fire, caused by a defective floor furnace, occurred in the Educational Building, which was badly damaged by smoke and water.
- 1944 All indebtedness incurred during the building of the church was paid and the Note Burning Ceremony took place on

September 24. Monroe Vivian, District Superintendent, delivered the sermon.

1944 The program of the Panola County Rural Work was initiated by Reverend Monroe Vivian with the assistance of James F. Jackson, pastor of the First Methodist Church, which has helped to support the work since that time. As a result of the success of this program, a District Board of Missions has been set up and other counties have organized similar work.

1944 The location of the District Parsonage was changed from Marshall to Longview. Beginning with the Conference Year 1944-1945, the churches of the Marshall District have reported as Longview District.

1945 The church was dedicated May 20 with Bishop A. Frank Smith presiding. James F. Jackson was pastor.

A highlight of the summer was a meeting May 12 - May 17 with Dr. Paul Quillian, pastor of First Methodist Church of Houston, as evangelist. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jenkins directed the music.

The first couple to be married in the new church was Miss Mary Sunshine Cudwith and Ray Davidson, Jr., in a ceremony performed on June 8 by Reverend Monroe Vivian.

1947 At the 107th session of the Methodist Conference in Houston a change was made in the time of appointing preachers to their new churches. The new ruling stated that the conference would meet in June and that ministers would begin the year's work then instead of in November. Reverend A. C. Bell was sent to Carthage.

1949 Bishop A. Frank Smith was at First Methodist Church for a preaching mission during the ministry of A. C. Bell. June 15-21.

By 1949 more room was needed for the growing church. A new building, named the Youth Building, was completed that year to accommodate the Intermediate and Senior young people and the Loyal Sons Class, giving more space for other departments in the Educational Building.

1951 Dr. Clovis Chappel held a series of services with Walter Jenkins in charge of the music from November 4-9. Reverend Jester White was pastor.

1953 Dr. Chappel again held a meeting with Walter Jenkins leading the singing. Reverend White was pastor.

- 1954 Reverend Joe Strother was assigned to the Carthage church. During his ministry a Children's Building was added to the church plant.
- 1955 The Abundant Life Club was organized under the direction of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the sponsorship of Reverend Joe Strother.
- 1956 Reverend Joe Strother had the honor of conducting the Christian Fellowship Odyssey around the world from August 10 to November 3. Mrs. Vivian Seman of Shreveport arranged the trip and made contacts with Christians in all countries visited. Some of these contacts proved most beneficial. As a result, the guide in Japan became a Christian, and a group of young Mohammedans in the Holy Land rented a room where they began meetings to study Christianity. The Carthage Methodist Church sent Bibles and Upper Rooms to Christians with whom Brother Joe and party associated in Spain. Many personal contacts were made in churches, in hotels, and on planes. This was the second tour of this nature planned by the late Doctor Glenn Clark, a devout Christian and man of prayer.
- 1958 A meeting of the Quarterly Conference of First Methodist Church in 1958 was climaxed by the announcement that a member of the church was giving her home on South Market Street to the church to serve in future years as a parsonage. Mrs. J. H. Phillips presented the deed to her home, valued at \$30,000, to the trustees at the conclusion of other conference business.
- 1959 In 1959 Mrs. Phillips also presented a home for superannuate preachers to the Texas Conference. This home, located in Carthage at 409 West Panola Street, is now occupied by Reverend and Mrs. C. L. Williams, who served the local church from 1931 to 1935. It has been named the Mouzon Bass Superannuate Home in honor of Reverend Mouzon Bass, who was district superintendent at the time of the gift.
- Bishop A. Frank Smith performed the Dedication Service on February 1, 1959. During the reception that followed, many friends called at the home to greet Bishop Smith, Mrs. Phillips, Reverend Bass, Reverend Grady Earls, and Reverend and Mrs. Williams.
- 1961 Fire was discovered in the Youth Building on Sunday morning of February 11, 1961, at 5:20 A.M. by Johnnie and Chester Stout. It was only through the heroic efforts of the fire department that the building was saved. The kitch-

en and gymnasium were badly burned. The piano was a total loss, and chairs had to be replaced.

In remodeling, a large air-conditioned Fellowship Hall was made from the old gymnasium, the kitchen was enlarged, new rest rooms and storage room provided, and two class rooms built upstairs. One of the most striking features of the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall is a stage furnished as a lounge with a T. V. set and high-fidelity record player. It is also equipped with a handsome red velvet proscenium curtain and a large screen for movies. The Woman's Society

of Christian Service provided custom-made draperies for the windows.

1961 Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Davis presented the First Methodist Church a lot on Shelby Street across from the Church.

1962 Longview District Conference of the Womans Society of Christian Service met at the First Methodist Church on March 28.

During the present quadrennium emphasis has been placed on evangelism. During the spring simultaneous revivals were held throughout the Texas Conference. Dr. Joseph Quillian, Dean of Perkins Theological School, was guest minister at First Methodist Church the week of April 1.

At the close of the year 1961-1962 the church reported 813 members. Church School enrollment was 592; Woman's Society of Christian Service, 101; and Wesleyan Service Guild, 57.

CHURCH SECRETARIES

1935 - 1962

Mrs. T. G. Duckworth	Volunteer Worker, 1935
Mrs. Jessie LeBlanc	Volunteer Worker
Miss Kitty MacDonald	C. 1948
Mrs. Fern Athey	1953
Mrs. Francis Horn	1954
Mrs. Karl Stovall	1958



J. BRYANT YOUNG

1960 - 1962

ST. ANDREWS METHODIST CHURCH

- 1959 A second Methodist Church was established in 1959. A building site to the north of Libby Elementary School was donated by Mr. and Mrs. I. I. Reeves for the church plant.

The idea of Saint Andrews Church had had its beginning five years before the church was a reality. A survey made under the direction of the late Mouzon Bass, Longview District Superintendent, showed that there were enough interested people to form a new Methodist Church in the city. E. C. Clabaugh, The Reverend Grady Earls, and Dan Wilmouth of Longview Mission assisted in the organization of the new church.

The first service of Saint Andrews was held in Libby Elementary School, August 2, 1959, with the Reverend Jack Albright, minister. Members of The Quarterly Conference elected trustees: C. B. Steptoe, Dale Brown, George Williams; Stewards, Ray Williams, W. K. Forsyth, Johnny McKay, Charles Cassity, Lavelle Brewster, Don Pearson, and Raymond Thomas; Sunday School Superintendent, David Clabaugh; Lay Leader, Jim Noonan; Treasurer, Huey Spears; Recording Steward, Louise Clabaugh; and Woman's Society of Christian Service President, Mrs. King Bowden.

In November the church was officially organized with 109 members.

The plant includes a Sanctuary seating 225 persons and an educational building with seven class rooms. This educational building was a gift of Mrs. Mollie Phillips. The church is evaluated at \$60,000.

- 1960 On February 21, at 2:30 P. M., St. Andrew's Methodist Church had the service for the opening of the new church building. A reception and open house followed in the Educational Building.
- 1961- St. Andrew's Church continued to grow under the leadership of Reverend Jack Albright. Church membership was 152; Church School enrollment 113, with King Bowden as superintendent; Woman's Society of Christian Service 26, with Mrs. Byron Chamness as president; Chairman of the Official Board, David Moore and pianist, Karen Gholston.
- 1962

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

During World War II the Carter Circle gave a Memorial Flag which was kept in the church. A blue star stood for each boy in service, and a gold star represented each boy who lost his life in the service of his country.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Wright placed a plaque in the foyer bearing the names of the boys lost in World War II from the Methodist Church. The following names are engraved on the plaque:

PAUL ROGERS BOYNTON

HERBERT H. WINSTEAD

ROY NICHOLS

GEORGE UNDERWOOD

DOUGLAS BEATY

A plaque in the sanctuary of the church lists the following gifts and memorials:

Plaque—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Brown

Furniture for Study—Mrs. Alex Ash

Furniture for Cassity Chapel—Mr. Gus Cassity and children

In memory of Mrs. Jewel Cassity

The brass cross on the communion table

In appreciation of Mr. R. G. Brown's service as
chairman of the building committee

Plot of ground east of the church building—Mr. Lee Williamson

Pulpit furniture—Mrs. Alene Bird Dunnaway

In memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bird

Windows in church were given as a memorial to the following:

Mrs. Panthea Wells—Friends

R. H. Chadwick—Loyal Sons Class

Lawrence Wall—Mrs. Emma Wall

In memory of her son

Mr. W. H. Matthews—His Children

The rose window in the pulpit—A Friend of the church
Pulpit chairs—Wesleyan Service Guild
Communion Table and Service—Carter Circle
Electric fans—Carter Circle and Wesleyan Guild
Christian Flag—Mrs. R. G. Brown and Mrs. Harlan Echols
Register and stand—Mrs. Neal Hawthorn
Bible for pulpit—Mrs. Ruth Turner
In memory of S. G. Turner
Furniture in Prayer Room—Mrs. Hazel Trabue,
Mrs. S. Lofton and Herschell Pankey
In memory of Mrs. Flora Pankey, their mother
Weather Vane for Educational Building—Mrs. R. G. Brown's
mother, Mrs. Jennie Taylor
Amplifier—The Carter Circle
Light in tower—Friends
In memory of John Ray

The silver plates on the pews bear the following inscriptions:

W. S. C. S., Circle Two, 1942

Martin Hess, 1943

In memory of Mrs. J. M. Wells, 1945

Sid B. Turner, 1945

C. A. Coats and Family, 1945

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Long, 1945

In Memory of J. E. Bowen, Jr., 1944

Q. M. Martin, 1944

In Memory of Roy Nichols, 1944

In Memory of Hubert Winstead, 1944

R. G. Brown and Family, 1942

Mrs. Alex Ash, 1945

To my Mother, R. A. Forsyth, 1942

In Memory of Neal A. Hawthorn, 1947

Reverend Stanley Carter. Through his inspiration this
Sanctuary was erected.

Reverend and Mrs. J. D. Pinkston, 1943

Pastors in Charge and District Superintendents

1940 - 1962

- 1940—Stanley Carter, P. C.—G. H. Wilson, Dist. Supt.
1941—Stanley Carter, P. C.—G. H. Wilson, Dist. Supt.
1942—Stanley Carter, P. C.—G. H. Wilson, Dist. Supt.
1942—J. D. Pinkston, P. C.—G. H. Wilson, Dist. Supt.
1943—Gordon Alexander, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1944—James F. Jackson, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1945—James F. Jackson, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1946—James F. Jackson, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1947—A. C. Bell, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1948—A. C. Bell, P. C.—Monroe Vivian, Dist. Supt.
1949—A. C. Bell, P. C.—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1950—Jester White—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1951—Jester White—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1952—Jester White—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1953—Jester White—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1954—Joe S. Strother—Joe Z. Tower, Dist. Supt.
1955—Joe S. Strother—Mouzon Bass, Dist. Supt.
1956—Joe S. Strother—Mouzon Bass, Dist. Supt.
1957—Joe S. Strother—Mouzon Bass, Dist. Supt.
1958—Grady Earls—Mouzon Bass, Dist. Supt.
1959—Grady Earls—Mouzon Bass, Dist. Supt.
1959—Charles Moore. Assistant Pastor
1960—J. Bryant Young—Walter R. Willis, Dist. Supt.
1961—J. Bryant Young—Walter R. Willis, Dist. Supt.
1962—J. Bryant Young—Walter R. Willis, Dist. Supt.
1961—Gene R. Neel. Minister of Music and Educational Director
1962—Gene R. Neel. Minister of Music and Educational Director

SUPERANNUATE MINISTERS

Rev. Clinton L. Williams	409 West Panola
Rev. Walton Day	South Adams Street
Rev. M. J. Bigger	137 West Pollard



TOP ROW, L. to R: Mike Harkrider, Chester Stout, Don Rowland, Mike Reeves, Bob Bertram, Sam Matthews
Marie Bridges, Maurine Baker

CENTER ROW, L to R: Doris Shivers, Inez Milstead, Margaret Tillery, Nina Beth Wardlaw, Barbara Walker,
June Neel, Elizabeth Morris

BOTTOM ROW, L to R: Donna Dean Hutcherson, Joyce Chapman, Margaret Harkrider, Lella Belle LaGrone,

THE CHOIR

Methodism has always placed emphasis on singing. The name of Charles Wesley is linked with that of John Wesley. The Carthage Methodist Church Choir has always had the reputation of having a fine spirit and guards that reputation. The preamble to its constitution which was adopted in 1949 states: "A choir is an institution of the church, which, in order to perform its function, must be peculiarly attuned to God. The function of a choir is to bring to the congregation the gospel in song. It is its responsibility to create such an atmosphere of worship that the minister will have no difficulty in reaching the hearts of the people. It provides the background, the setting, for the sermon which is the climax of the worship hour."

Carthage's earliest choirs were composed of volunteers, many of whom were enlisted by the pastor's invitation at the beginning of the service. One of those who responded early to the invitation was the choir's patron saint "Miss Jo"—Mrs. Don Page, nee Joanna Woodall—whom the choir honored with hymnals marked by nameplates when she had served more than three-score years. "Miss Jo" now sings with the angels, and her picture hangs in a place of honor in the choir room.

As far back as 1935 the church recognized the value of a choir director, and Mrs. Mary Cooke Yarborough was engaged in that capacity. Mrs. R. H. Chadwick served as organist to complete the team. Since that time the following directors and organists have served:

DIRECTORS

Mrs. Warren A. Duran (nee Sybil Lacy)	Mrs. Del Moore
Mrs. James F. Jackson	Mr. Tom Stone
Mr. Ray V. Davidson, Jr.	Mr. David Jones
	Rev. Gene Neel

ORGANISTS

Mrs. Robert Neal (nee Hazel Atkinson)	Miss Patsy Jacobs
Mrs. Earl Hunt (nee Virginia Long)	Miss Betty Ann Yarborough
Miss Mary Ann Hendricks	Miss Susanne Neal
Mrs. Del Moore	Miss Judy Brassell
Miss Frances Allison	Miss Judi Johnson
Miss Saralyn Owens	Mrs. Clarence Martin
	Miss Hattie Maude Johns

The Choir had another "patron saint" in the Loyal Sons' Bible Class. In the early days when the budget barely covered the preacher's salary, the Loyal Sons provided the money for music and in 1949 bought robes for the choir.

The first choir robes were made of white sheeting by Mrs. Alma G. Ross. The second robes were purchased by the choir members themselves, each buying his own. Those purchased by the Loyal Sons were the third set, and the regular budget provided the present robes.

The choir appointed a librarian at the same time it adopted a constitution in 1949 with the responsibility of looking after its music. The music library was preserved in this manner until the directors took over this duty. By taking care of its music, the choir has built up a good music library.

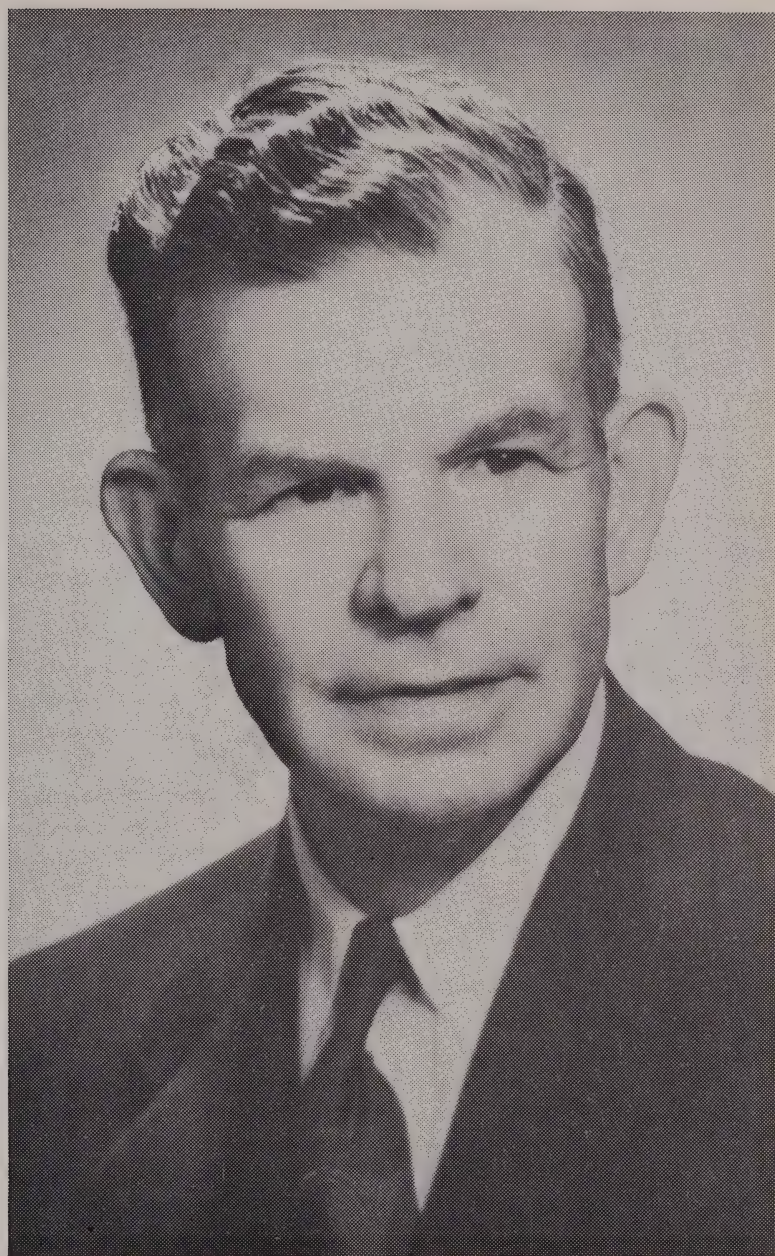
In addition to its regular duties the choir presents special programs at least twice a year.

The Sunday night services at Carthage Methodist are the responsibility of the Youth Choirs and Junior Choirs that have been organized, taught and led by our choir directors. Many of the present adult choirs were trained in the Junior and Youth Choirs. Special programs bring all choirs together with numbers chosen to use both types.

One of the fringe benefits of choir membership is the fellowship generated by working together, and members frequently entertain the choir in their homes. The entertainment is entirely spontaneous with no obligation for regular parties.

Choir members consider it a privilege and honor to serve in the choir. They realize that a good choir is no accident, but the result of careful planning and tireless effort by both leaders and members.

MRS. W. V. TILLERY, JR.



E. C. CLABAUGH
Sunday School Superintendent
1924 - 1952

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

1860 - 1962

Very little is known about the Sunday School in the early years of the church, but a few items of interest have been found in old copies of *The Panola Watchman*. This information is given in the following paragraphs.

In the early days the Sunday Schools of both Methodist and Baptist churches were held together, meeting at one church in the morning and at the other in the afternoon. Members of other denominations attended these services, and the joint Sunday Schools continued until the membership of the churches could support separate services.

An outstanding layman was Colonel E. S. Hull who in 1881 received a silver chalice as a token of appreciation for his many years of service as Sunday School superintendent and for other notable contributions to the church.

An article of July 14, 1881, states: "On last Wednesday the young people on pleasure assembled at the hospitable home of Colonel E. S. Hull and spent several hours in social conversation. Good music, both instrumental and vocal, was rendered by the young ladies and gentlemen. At 10 o'clock refreshments consisting of grapes, peaches, pears, and watermelon were served. Miss Minnow knows how to entertain her guests and the young people always enjoy themselves when other social gatherings are presided over by her."

An issue of July 11, 1887 reads: "The new Bible class met at the Methodist Sunday School with P. W. Packer teacher of the class. The class consisted of about one dozen gentlemen who range in age from fourteen years to forty-five years."

This excerpt comes from an issue in 1888: "The Methodist Sunday School was reorganized with John B. Fuller as superintendent and colonel E. S. Hull as assistant. During this period the adults were taught by Mrs. Helen Nelson and Judge J. H. Long."

Of the Sunday School classes in existence today, perhaps the oldest is the Loyal Sons Class organized in 1913 with L. E. Van Sandt as teacher. R. H. Chadwick succeeded Mr. Van Sandt in 1915. No room being available, this class met in the parsonage for a short time. The class then built a room on the south end of the church lawn, and here it grew in numbers and in spirituality.

Two Carthage men who deserve special recognition for service of many decades are Carl Pollard and Richard Banks. These men acted as Secretary of the Sunday School as far back as some of our older church members can recall, and they gave up their work only because of ill health. Mr. Pollard died in 1947, and Mr. Banks is now confined to his home on West Wellington Street.

There are no records of the first meetings of the Wesleyann Class, but probably the date was 1918 with Mr. T. S. Short as teacher. Later on a class taught by Mrs. Helen Nelson united with the Wesleyanns. At first, a room that had been used as a pastor's study was the only available space for a classroom. This growing class, loyal to the church and spiritually strong, saw the need for a new educational building which would not only have adequate accommodations for their own group but also more space for other needs of the church. However, these ambitious plans were not to be realized for a quarter of a century.

It was while Reverend B. T. Bell was pastor in 1923 that the church added a large room on the south side for a Children's Department. The nursery, beginners, and primary children were taught in the same room where individual classes were seated at separate tables. This was quite a step forward and showed the progress and growth of the Sunday School at that time. Old-timers in Carthage will remember that Brother Bell bought the good lumber from the partially burned home of Miss Emma Fite to use in this addition. This home was located to the west of the Ike Reeves building on East Sabine.

By 1934 further improvements in Sunday School facilities came as a result of repairs made on the sanctuary. Circle Two of the Woman's Missionary Society raised the money to remodel the church, and space was provided between the sanctuary and the Children's Department for separate classes for the Junior Department. Mrs. Alice Hawthorn was elected their superintendent. Young people met here for Sunday School classes in the morning and for Epworth League in the evening.

The Epworth League was an active organization under the sponsorship of Miss Emma Fite and Miss Mattye Esther Walker, who served the youth for twelve years. Miss Walker and her group worked not only in the local church but also organized Epworth Leagues in rural churches.

The League often shared their programs with shut-ins or with prisoners at the county jail, singing carols to them at Christmas time. Many of the young people who pledged themselves for part-time Christian service have been faithful workers in their local churches to this day. Recreation of the Leaguers included hay rides, treasure hunts, hikes, weiner roasts, and candy pulls.



TOP ROW, L to R: Dwight Moore, Warren Duran, Myrtle Cox, Halcyon Barton, Conway, Jimmy Duran

CENTER ROW, L to R: Miss Mattye Esther Walker, Miss Emma Fite, Rev. D. W. Moore, Grace Fite Allison, Emma Jane Atkinson, Hazel Atkinson, Joanna Cox, Rupert Chadwick

BOTTOM ROW, L to R: Little Miss Moore, Rachel Ellen Barton, Anne Brown, Hattie Maud Atkinson, Elizabeth Long, Hazel Cox, James Conway, James Walker

The Epworth League became a part of the Methodist Youth Fellowship in 1939 when The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, merged with The Methodist Protestant Church and The Methodist Episcopal Church. At the time of union there was a general re-organization of the Church, and the Sunday School became known as the Church School. All youth activities came under a division called the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

By the time the Educational Building had been completed in 1941, youth and children's divisions of the Church had been organized. Mrs. Horace Allison was made Superintendent of Children. The new building provided a well-equipped nursery, kindergarten, and primary and junior departments; and superintendents and teachers were elected for each department. In addition to the regular Sunday morning Church Bible School program, the children had mission studies and vacation Bible schools.

Mrs. H. T. Long was the first superintendent of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, which includes both junior and senior high school boys and girls. Each group had its own department and counselor with an excellent staff of teachers. This period is marked as a time of special enthusiasm among the young people. There was a very active MYF on Sunday evenings, and leadership of the Carthage youngsters was very strong in the district and sub-district meetings. One of the sub-districts was named in memory of J. E. Bowen, a sincere and faithful Christian worker who passed away in 1944. Summer activities at this time included camp at Scottsville and Gilmer, and for the first time, Youth Activities Week.

In the Adult Department the Loyal Sons and the Wesleyanns had large adjoining rooms that were also used for dinner meetings and social affairs. H. T. Long continued as teacher of the men's class. He had succeeded R. H. Chadwick who resigned in 1935 because of ill health. Mrs. Roy Biggerstaff was re-elected teacher of the Wesleyann Class.

The Upper Room Class had no definite date of organization. This class probably formed around a nucleus of girls who had met together from the time that they were in the Children's Department. Mrs. W. V. Tillery, Jr., had taught a class of teenagers in the choir of the old church, and before the present church was constructed she taught the Upper Room Class in the parsonage. With their comfortable room in the Educational Building and interest in the progress of the Church School, the attendance has grown steadily through the years.

When the new church was built in 1941, a frame building that had been used as a class room by the Loyal Sons was moved to the back of the church property for a recreation center for the

young people. The boys and girls enjoyed their games and parties so much in the little frame building that the church was inspired to construct a beautiful and spacious youth center.

On August 15, 1945, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Wright, and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Brown, Sr., were hosts to the Board of Stewards for a steak supper at the Wright Cottage on Dixie Lake. The need for a youth building was discussed, and the board voted to have plans drawn. James F. Jackson was the minister during this time, but circumstances prevented the construction until 1949 during the ministry of Reverend A. C. Bell. Members of the building committee were R. G. Brown, chairman; P. B. Koonce, secretary; and J. G. Strong, H. T. Long, Horace Allison, and E. C. Clabaugh.

Previous plans were revised and enlarged, and Joe Gray was employed as contractor. The building was completed in May 29, 1949. Taking advantage of the additional space, the Loyal Sons Class moved into the gymnasium of the Youth Building, and the Wesleyanns occupied the room vacated by the men. It was unfurnished as a parlor and has since been used for parties and receptions as well as a class room. The Senior and Intermediate Departments also moved into the new building, leaving space for more adult classes.

Post-graduates from high school were organized into the Friendship Class in 1949; however, this group was later absorbed into other classes.

With the continued growth of the Sunday School, a group of young men and women organized the Side by Side class in October, 1954, with Mrs. Cullen Thomas as their teacher. In February of 1960 this class changed the name to the Round Table since they sat around a large table for informal discussions. This procedure allows the class members to relate their Sunday School lessons to personal problems, thereby proving especially interesting and instructive.

As the enrollment increased in the Children's Department, Reverend Jester White presented the need for providing more Sunday School room to the Board of Stewards; however, plans for constructing a new building did not materialize until 1955. At this time Reverend Joe Strother was pastor, and Mrs. Jim Gillaspie was superintendent of the Children's Department. Q. M. Martin acted as chairman of a building committee which consisted also of Mrs. H. T. Long, Cassity Jones, Tommy Jones, Horace Allison, Raphael Crawford, Oney Holt was contractor.

The new building provided adequate space for three-year-old children, and kindergarten, primary, and junior departments. It was furnished with small pianos, furniture, and play equipment suitable for each age group.

The Children's Division has a very strong curriculum and provides for summer activity as well. The courses of study are designed to give the children a comprehensive course beginning with "God's Love" for the three-year-olds and culminating with "Wider Grows the Kingdom" for the third-year juniors. In the summer children may attend vacation church school and junior camp at Lakeview. Very special occasions, always enjoyed by children, are the annual Easter Egg Hunts and the Christmas Trees. The whole congregation has enjoyed the Christmas program when families gather in Fellowship Hall for a covered dish supper followed by a children's performance and a visit from Santa Claus.

The children are trained early to be of service in the Church and the community. Among their projects are the following: collection of clothing for the Goodwill Industries, contribution toward a Braille Bible for the blind, gifts of Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets to needy families, placing of flowers on the Church altar, and regular contributions to the Bible Society.

A new class for adults was formed in 1955 at the suggestion of Reverend Jester White. Charter members of this couples class, called Team Mates, were Mr. and Mrs. Carrol Click, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Ethon Birdwell, Mr. and Mrs. Thad Edwards, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones. Tom Jones was elected president, and Thad Edwards became secretary. The teacher was Q. M. Martin. In a short time the Team Mates grew into a large class of loyal and faithful members who have provided attractive surroundings for their discussions.

The increased enrollment of the Wesleyann Class resulted finally in class division in December, 1956. The new class took the name of The Gleaners, and Mrs. D. M. Stovall was made teacher. The name has proved to be very appropriate, for this group of women are interested and sincere in the work of the church. The room for the forty members is attractively furnished, and the floors are carpeted.

All adult classes of the Church School receive social and spiritual enrichment from fellowship and Bible study. The classes, as individuals and as groups, are ever ready to help those in need or distress by giving freely of their time, money, or services. One of the most worthwhile projects has been the sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop by the Loyal Sons.

Through the years, youth work has continued under the supervision of laymen or directors of Christian Education. Regular activities include study, worship, fun, and fellowship throughout the year. In the summer the church has continued to sponsor Youth Activities Week in August, and in recent years has helped to send

young people to camp at Lakeview Methodist Assembly. A week night program has included suppers, study groups, games, and dramatic activities.

Two of the most interesting projects have been the Youth Safaris of 1961 and 1962. On August 28, 1961, fifteen senior high campers and their counselors, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Strong and Reverend and Mrs. Gene Neel, left from the church to spend a week in Devil's Den State Park in the northwestern part of Arkansas. The group lived in tents, doing their own cooking. Besides studying religious questions of concern to youth, they spent time swimming, exploring, and just plain loafing. The campers returned to Carthage on Friday, September 1.

The second Safari was made to the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, Washington. Reverend Neel has written the following account of the trip:

Sunday afternoon, June 10, 1962, began an exciting three-week period in the lives of several of our young people. At that time 17 happy folks were found in front of the church loading a school bus for a Safari to the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, Washington.

The trip was sponsored by our church and St. Andrews. Those young people who went were: Lynn Hellinghausen, Jan Teller, Karlene Stovall, Eva Lois Brooks, Vicki Keeling, Nancy Kaufman, Ike Reeves, Bill Naylor, Ben C. Hart, Jr., Chris Prince, Billy Don Griffith, James Gholston and Don Keeling. They were accompanied by four adults: Rev. and Mrs. Gene R. Neel, Rev. Jack Albright, and Wilbur Chancey.

Leaving Carthage at 4 A. M. on Monday, June 11, the group began its extended travels in high spirits. Every day there were new and interesting sights in each of the new states. An incident which could have been ruinous to the morale of a less adventure-some group occurred in Rangely, Colorado. At this point a new motor had to be put in the bus and this necessitated a two-and-one half-day lay-over in this wonderfully friendly town of only 3,000 population. The Chamber of Commerce of Rangely arranged for every need to be taken care of and this interlude became a highlight of the trip for everyone.

The states of Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, and Washington were viewed on the way to the Fair. Accommodations for camping out were found each night in state and national parks along the way.

The bus pulled into the camp grounds at Seattle after midnight on Sunday, June 17. Three never-to-be-forgotten days were then



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Gene Neel, Jan Teller, Nancy Kaufman, Karlene Stovall, Lynn Hellinghausen, Vicki Keeling, Eva Lois Brooks, Chris Prince, Bill Naylor, Ben Hart, Ike Reeves III, Rev. Gene Neel and Walter Neel, James Gholston, Billy Don Griffith, Don Keeling, Rev. Jack Albright.

spent at the Fair. The exhibits were marvelous and much knowledge, as well as the finest entertainment, was gained from this experience. Many of the group spent the third day in Canada.

The return trip covered a slightly different route. Highlights of the trip home were visits to the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

After 19 glorious days of Christian fellowship, the Safari arrived back in Carthage—the young people tired and dirty, but already discussing where they wanted to go next year.

The General Superintendents who have served the
Methodist Church School are listed with
the years of service

1860-1881	Col. E. S. Hull
1887	Carl Pollard
1888	John B. Fuller
1889	P. W. Packer
1896	Carl Pollard
1897	Carl Pollard
1898	Carl Pollard
1899	Carl Pollard
1900	J. B. Davidage
1901	J. B. Davidage
1905	Judge J. H. Long
1906	Judge J. H. Long
1907	Judge J. H. Long
1908	L. M. Logan
1908	A. G. Brooks
1909	A. G. Brooks
1910	A. G. Brooks
1911	W. G. Banks
1912	A. J. Holmes
1913	A. J. Holmes
1914-1923	R. H. Chadwick
1923	Davis Nelson
1924-1952	E. C. Clabaugh
1952	W. C. Applegate
1953	W. C. Applegate
1954	Carrol Click
1955	Carrol Click
1956	E. C. Winfrey
1957	E. C. Winfrey
1958	B. C. Harkrider
1959	B. C. Harkrider
1960	Lee Chapman
1961	Lee Chapman
1962	Dr. R. E. Wiggins

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S WORK

Introduction

The Old Texas Conference

The East Texas Conference

The Texas Conference

The Woman's Missionary Society

The Woman's Society of Christian Service

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Circle Two

The Carter Circle

The Wesleyan Service Guild

Circle Four

Circles for 1962

Presidents of Woman's Missionary Work

The Woman's Missionary Society

The Woman's Society of Christian Service

INTRODUCTION

The Conference which is now called The Texas Conference includes nearly all of what was formerly the Old Texas Conference and all of what was originally the East Texas Conference, the General Conference of 1902 having united them under the name of The Texas Conference.

Thus, the history of the early missionary work of the women will include the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Old Texas Conference, and the Woman's Department of Church Extension of the Old Texas Conference; also, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the East Texas Conference, and the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society of the East Texas Conference.

After the union of the two Conferences in 1903, there still remained both the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Greater Texas Conference. The union of the Home and Foreign Work in 1912 followed the plan of the Church, and since that date we have had The Woman's Missionary Society of Texas Conference.*

From 1912 to 1940, woman's work advanced under the Woman's Missionary Society of Texas Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1939 the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church united under the name of the Methodist Church. A year later, following this unification, the Woman's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

* From History of Woman's Work, Volume I.



MRS. THOS. F. (Clarra) HULL
President of the Woman's Foreign
Missionary Society
1886

THE OLD TEXAS CONFERENCE

1878 - 1902

The Foreign Missionary Society

Until the year 1878 there had been no organized woman's work in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but the general conference of that year in session at Atlanta, Georgia, authorized the organization of the Woman's Missionary Society. The first meeting of the Society was held May 23, 1878, in the First Methodist Church of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Woman's Missionary Society of The Texas Conference was organized in the town of Flatonia on December 11, 1880. At this time the Christian women of Flatonia formed an auxiliary, and the visiting women of Brenham organized another auxiliary. These two auxiliary organizations, with the society from Chapel Hill (near Houston), constituted the three organizations necessary for a Conference Society.

The first annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society was held in Houston, Texas, in December of 1881. One hundred and eight members were reported.

Woman's Department of Church Extension

The Home Mission Society

In the early part of 1887 a Parsonage Society was organized at Chapel Hill, but in a few weeks resolved itself into an Aid Society. In August, 1887, a live, working society was also organized in Marlin, Texas, and continues as the oldest Auxiliary in the Texas Conference. By 1890 the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Societies reported five adult auxiliaries with a membership of fifty-five.

In 1892 a Conference President was elected, and in the fall of 1898 the president, Mrs. Allen, issued a call for a meeting to be held in connection with the Annual Conference. By this time the name of the organization had been changed to the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Thus the first annual meeting of the Woman's Home Mission Society of Texas Conference was held in Old Shearn Church, Houston, on December 2, 1898. Three officers, ten delegates, and two visitors were present. Subsequent meetings from 1899 to 1901 were held in Marlin, Rockdale, and Huntsville, Texas.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE

1878 - 1902

The Foreign Missionary Society

As there was opposition to the woman's work on the part of some of the churches in the East Texas Conference, it required determination and conviction to proceed with mission work in the early days.

In November, 1880, the East Texas Conference met in Marshall and the East Texas Foreign Missionary Society was organized at that time. The next year it convened in Jacksonville, Bishop Kavanaugh presiding. The third annual report of the Woman's Missionary Society was given at this meeting.

In 1882, at Henderson, Bishop Linus Parker presided over the Conference. Missionary Day was observed by a special service.

In 1883 the East Texas Conference met in Tyler, with Bishop Linus Parker again presiding. This was a great missionary conference, and for the first time the woman's work was included in the printed minutes of the conference. Carthage was among the twenty-two societies reporting. There were four hundred adult members, one hundred juvenile members, and an offering of \$544.30

According to the reports of The Texas Conference minutes, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Carthage Methodist Church was organized between the dates of 1880 and 1883.

The January, 1887, issue of *The Panola Watchman* stated that Mrs. Clarra Hull, who was president of The Woman's Foreign Society, read an essay on the work of Miss Dora Rankin, Missionary to China. Mrs. Hull was evidently the first president of the Carthage Society.

The Conference of The Woman's Society met each year, and the secretaries reported progress in their work. At the meeting in Tyler, November 26, 1890, the following report was given:

Auxiliary Societies	34
Members	713
Juvenile Societies	16
Members	525
Total amount remitted to the Treasurer for the year, \$1,249.68.	

The Parsonage and Home Missionary Society

The Methodist Church in Orange was the first in the Beaumont District to organize a Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society, which was accomplished in 1893. The East Texas Annual Conference and the Conference Home Mission and Parsonage Society met there in December. Many men of the Conference availed themselves of the opportunity of attending the woman's meetings.

In 1894 at The East Texas Conference held in Jacksonville, the Society had the first report of the Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society as follows: "We have in our Conference thirty Parsonage Societies with nearly five hundred members. Many of the sick have been visited, cottage prayer meetings have been held, and hundreds of garments given to the poor. Several boxes and barrels of clothing have been sent to the frontiers. The officers of the Conference Society feel greatly encouraged by the excellent reports of the workers."

The following Societies named are among those having best reports for their work: Lufkin Adult and Lufkin Juniors, Nacogdoches Adult, Henderson, Crockett, Orange, Carthage Adults, and Orange Juniors, Marshall, Timpson, Trinity and Jasper.

MRS. W. C. HUNTINGTON

Conference Corresponding Secretary

MRS. B. M. ADAMS

President

Further progress was made by 1896 when the women of East Texas Conference met in Marshall. For the first time they had a separate building in which to hold their meetings. This enabled them to conserve time by holding morning sessions and prompted thoroughness in their business sessions. The enlarged Conference territory and increased attendance of women at the annual meetings of the Parsonage and Home Missions Conference made the entertainment of both at small East Texas towns a problem, so in the fall of 1897 the women did not meet with the men. The next spring they held their first conference sessions alone at Lufkin, Texas. The publication of an annual report was for the first time provided for and the minutes edited.

THE TEXAS CONFERENCE

1902 - 1962

The Texas and East Texas Conference united to form the Texas Conference in 1902, meeting in Crockett. The first Home Mission Conference following the union of the East Texas and Old Texas Conference was in Tyler in April, 1903.

The magazine for the Woman's Home Mission Society was *Our Homes*, and for the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, *The Woman's Missionary Advocate*.

Reverend A. A. Kidd was pastor in Carthage from 1905 to 1907, and Reverend E. L. Shettles was Presiding Elder of the San Augustine District. On October 1, 1906, Mrs. E. L. Shettles organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Carthage with twelve members. Mrs. C. H. Pollard was made secretary of the organization. The following minutes came from the minutes of the Quarterly Conference:

"Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized October 1, 1906, by our Conference organizer, Mrs. E. L. Shettles. There were twelve members enrolled. We have had only two business meetings up to date, dues collected two dollars. So far only two Missionary Advocates have been subscribed for. We are glad this organization has been perfected in this church and trust through a small band of workers in this vineyard we may be an instrument in scattering the seeds of Christ's gospel among the heathen nations of the world, and thereby win the tribute of Him upon whom Mary broke the box of precious ointment and winning as a parting benediction. 'She hath done what she could.'"

Respectfully Submitted,

MRS. C. H. POLLARD

Recording Secretary

The Juvenile Missionary Society was organized October 1, 1906, since which time we have met regularly. Our meetings are well attended. We are reading missionary literature and our Superintendent, Mrs. A. A. Kidd helps us greatly in various ways.

Respectfully,

ANNIE MAE HOOKER

President



MRS. W. P. LAWRENCE
President of the Woman's Missionary Society
1898 - 1918

The following report to Quarterly Conference of November 25, 1907, was submitted by Reverend Chas. U. McClarty, Pastor:

"The Woman's Home Mission Society has thirty-three members and has raised for all purposes \$108.00. We have papered four rooms at the parsonage and have placed four rockers, an ice box, dining table, matting for one floor and paid off our old debt on parsonage and yard fence. The attendance and interest will compare favorable with any Society."

Respectfully Submitted,

MRS. T. P. CHRISTIAN

Recording Secretary

An important milestone in the history of women's work was reached in May, 1912, in First Church Houston. At that time the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Woman's Home Mission Society held a joint meeting and were merged into one organization, the Woman's Missionary Society of the Texas Conference. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. O. L. McKnight; Vice-President, Mrs. A. A. Kidd; Corresponding Secretary Home Department, Mrs. J. W. Spivey; Recording Secretary Home Department, Miss E. L. Hill; Corresponding Secretary Foreign Department, Mrs. C. A. Hooper; Recording Secretary Foreign Department, Miss Paye Lane; Treasurer Foreign Department, Mrs. Hugh McFarlane.

The Great War affected every aspect of life in this country. During 1917 and 1918, when our boys were fighting in World War I, the Women of the Carthage Missionary Society worked at the Red Cross room making bandages. The spirit of the war period is shown in the study books for the year. For Adults, it was *Making Democracy Safe*; for Young People, *The New Crusade*; for Juniors, *Making the World Safe*.

The work of the Society progressed during the next decade under dedicated leaders. In 1928 women of East Texas met in Marshall at a Jubilee Conference to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of the Woman's Missionary Society in Atlanta, Georgia. From the following quotation we get the spirit of the Conference: "The Ancient Jewish law of the Jubilee set apart this time as a season for renewal of strength. So we wait to renew our strength and to rediscover God for ourselves. He has for us a new message and is calling us to a new service. Through study and meditation let us seek to know the greater depths in the resources of God."

As Carthage continued to grow and young couples entered the church family, the need arose for growth in church organiza-

tions. Mrs. C. L. Williams writes in the following paragraphs of how that need was met:

For some time many of the women of the Missionary Society had realized the need of an organization of some kind for the young women of the Church. Many of them had never participated in any phase of the women's work, and many of them were very talented and capable.

When I was approached with the suggestion that I might be the one who could interest them and lead them, it seemed almost an answer to prayer for in the short time that I had known many of these girls I had come to love them and covet them for the Master's service. So, with faith and prayer we began to approach them and suggest the organization of a young woman's group. To our joy, we found them ready and eager. The thing that had been holding them back was the fact that they were hesitant to "expose their ignorance" before the older women, whom they felt had had so much more experience and knew so much more about the work of the Missionary Society. We all agreed that, knowing as little as we did, we would all start out to learn and work together.

In October, 1932, Circle Two of the Missionary Society of the Carthage Methodist Church was organized with Mrs. Lucien Walker as President. At this time our church building was a large sanctuary and a small children's department. There was no young people's department, no kitchen, nor any serving facilities. The first project of this Circle Two was to start a renovation program to utilize some of the lost space in the sanctuary into a small kitchen and a room for serving our dinners, luncheons etc., and which could also be used for Sunday School purposes. What could we do to start raising the money? Have an old fashioned "Box Supper", and we did. We had it at the old Court House. It went over in a big way, and the first \$150.00 was given toward this program which caught fire in the entire Church, and was soon a reality. Our congregation was brought closer together in a more compact sanctuary. Some people even said, "the preacher's preaching was better." Our young people were provided a Sunday School department which was also used as a dining room when needed, and a small well furnished kitchen was made available for the use of the entire membership. But we didn't stop raising money. During all this time, we were getting better acquainted with each other and the girls were in and out of the parsonage to talk over plans and ideas, and the parsonage kitchen became our workshop. We made and sold hot tamales under the direction of the Pastor, who was a master at making the tamales.

In our enthusiasm for the physical and material growth of our Church, we did not lose sight of our own need for spiritual de-

velopment and growth, and information concerning the Missionary program of our great Church. We were soon having our Bible and Mission studies. The girls conducted and participated in the programs and studies. As their information and interest in their beloved Church increased, so did their zeal and concern in the promotion of its over all program.

All this time, the Mother Society was loving and encouraging this younger group in every way they could. Much of its growth and success was due to their concern and cooperation.

In due course of time, according to the plan of our Woman's Work, these young women went into the Mother Society and became dependable and consecrated workers. From this group came officers and leaders for the local society and even out into the District Organization. Truly, God did bless us.

After an absence of twenty-seven years, we have come back to Carthage to spend our Superannuate years. It does our heart good, and we give thanks unto God to find a number of "Circle Two Girls" still working in the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and active in other phases of the program of our great Church."

ESTHER WILLIAMS

(Mrs. C. L. W.)

The service of the Woman's Missionary Society took many directions. In addition to fulfilling the purposes of the religious organization, they were always ready to render public service and to help meet the financial obligations of the local church. In 1935, for instance, the women began serving luncheons to the Lions Club who had no other place to meet. At the same time they raised funds for their commitments to the church. The men appreciated this service, and the women enjoyed working together in preparing the meals. Food was rationed during World War II and it was necessary to discontinue the project in 1945.

One dream of the Society was to buy an organ for the church. Mrs. R. G. Brown brought to a meeting a *Time Magazine* in which was advertised an electric Hammond Organ. She was appointed to obtain the information about the organ, and in reply to her request, she was told to write the Whittle Music Company in Dallas. After conferring with their representative, Howard Beasley, the organ was purchased on March 2, 1936. This organ was the first of this kind sold in Texas. The first organists were Mrs. F. E. Luker and Mrs. R. H. Chadwick, who had already served the church faithfully as pianist for many years.

The Woman's Missionary Society had always been responsible for furnishing, redecorating, and repairing the parsonage. In 1909

they added a kitchen and bathroom, and according to old minutes, they paid off a note at the bank for repairs on the church. (The bank, by the way, charged no interest!) In order to do these things, such as take care of needy families, make extra offering for missions and other good causes, it was necessary to have many money-making projects. As the women worked together, ties of friendship were formed that have lasted through the years.

Many rummage sales were held at the corner of the First National Bank, and sandwiches and coffee were served on election nights. There were Easter and Thanksgiving markets, ice cream suppers, a quilt show, bazaars, and white elephant sales. Once an effort was made to raise a mile of pennies. This goal was not reached, but there was a nice offering when the pennies were counted.

There was an apron social, a waist-line party, blessing boxes, and a missionary basket which was passed to members and friends. A country store provided fun and profit. Meals were served at the County Fair. Dollars were distributed to each member to invest and bring in proceeds with a poem telling how the investment was made. The women met at homes for the doughnut sales. Some prepared the dough, some fried them, while others took orders and delivered them.

There were book reviews, and a play "The Zander Gump Wedding." The baseball game between the two circles of the Woman's Society for the benefit of the organ fund was well attended. Extract cartons were collected. Old newspapers, furniture polish, stainless steel sponges and Skiddoo were sold. The Presiding Elder remarked at Quarterly Conference that the women of this district had sold enough Skiddoo to polish all the brass rails in Heaven.

The demands of the times made fund-raising projects a necessity; however, these activities were secondary to the purposes of the Society which had a well-rounded program that furnished study, spiritual enrichment, and social life for its members.

On January 17, 1940, Mrs. Carter organized a group of young women into a circle which was named Carter Circle. This later became a unit of the Wesleyan Service Guild which was organized by Mrs. Carter in October, 1940. Louise Le Blanc recounts the history of this resourceful group of young women in the following essay:



MRS. H. R. ALLISON
President of the Woman's Society of
Christian Service
1939 - 1943

The Carter Circle

The need of organizing a missionary society for the younger women of the church had been in the minds of many members of The Woman's Missionary Society for quite some time. Reverend Stanley Carter became pastor of our church in 1939 and it was his alert, Christian wife, Ned Carter, who made this need a realization.

On January 17, 1940, a group of young women were invited to the parsonage for a buffet supper which was the original meeting of this church circle that has become entitled The Carter Circle honoring their sponsor, Mrs. Stanley Carter. Those present were the following: Mesdames B. S. Atkinson, Jr., Jimmy Davis, G. E. Underwood, L. W. McAnally, W. H. Echols, Fred A. Dulaney, Jr., Howell E. Duckworth, Overton Lacy, Loyd Thompson, Jr., Jack Scott, and Misses Margie Campbell, Claris Brown, Esther Wayne Roe, Miriam Dennard, Kathryn Duran, Marian Ross, Jessie Gray, Mary Catherine Rowland, Melba Whitaker, Mary Louise Baker, Jonny Fite and Sammy Matthews.

Members of The Woman's Society who assisted Mrs. Carter with this meeting were, Mrs. Maxie Bowen, Mrs. R. G. Brown, Mrs. Horace Allison and Mrs. J. G. Strong.

A nominating committee was appointed and it was decided meetings would be held on the first Tuesday night of each month in the homes of members. Since the construction of the present church building, many of the meetings are held in the church parlor and Fellowship Hall.

The first regular meeting was held February 6, 1940, in the home of Sammy Matthews with Mrs. Lloyd Thompson, Jr., as co-hostess. The following officers were elected: President, Kathryn Duran; Vice President, Mary Louise Baker; Recording Secretary, Melba Whitaker; Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Russell; Treasurer, Mrs. Ben Atkinson, Jr.; Publicity Chairman, Miriam Dennard; Program Chairman, Mrs. Overton Lacy; Finance Committee Chairman, Mrs. Lon Wyatt McAnally; Membership Chairman, Johnny Fite; Christian Social Relations Committee, Esther Wayne Roe; Sponsor, Mrs. Stanley Carter.

It was unanimously voted that each member would pay 25 cents per month as dues. The name "Carter Circle" was chosen by this group as a token of our love and appreciation to Mrs. Stanley Carter who sponsored us.

The first money making project Carter Circle undertook was serving 175 men at a Farmer-Business man banquet.

In 1942 new officers were elected, and Mary Louise Baker became president. A Communion service, Communion linens and a Communion table for the new church was purchased. One hundred and four dollars was paid on fans for the church. To make money for this, members sold coat hangers and cold drinks and sandwiches on election day. Rummage sales netted quite a lot of money.

We recall with pleasure that Mrs. Carter used to send their young son, Stanley Hill, to the First National Bank corner early in the morning of rummage sale day to hold that spot for Carter Circle.

Virginia Russell was elected president in 1943. During that year the group began sending cards, letters and the "Upper Room" to the men from our church who were in service. A service flag was made to hang in the church honoring those serving in World War II. An amplifier was also bought to place in the church steeple. Reverend J. D. Pinkston was pastor at that time.

In 1944 Claris Shaw served as President of Carter Circle. Pledge cards were signed by members instead of twenty-five cents monthly dues. Eleven dollars per quarter was paid to the district for missions. A desk and chair was purchased for the parsonage. The sale of birthday calendars and rummage sales were money making projects.

Kathryn Clark was elected President in 1945 and again in 1947. Reverend James Jackson was pastor of the church. The circle began paying \$15 per quarter as a district pledge. A box of supplies was sent to Navajo Methodist Mission School in Farmington, New Mexico.

A tiered table was purchased for the parsonage. \$50 was donated to the Red Cross, and a contribution was made to the Fire Department toward the purchase of an iron lung. A Baby Life Membership was given to Marilyn Anne Dulaney, and an Adult Life Membership was given to Kathryn Clark.

In 1946 Carter Circle members were still making money by selling sandwiches in town on Saturday afternoons. Thirty-seven members were on the roll. Programs for the years stressed World Peace. District pledge and local church activities brought in \$435.85. Mary Gholston was president.

The officers elected in Carter Circle for 1948 served through May, 1949 since the conference year was extended through May. There were fifty members on roll and Naomi Phillips served as President. At this time Reverend A. C. Bell was pastor of the church and his wife, Martha June, served as the Woman's Society of Christian Service sponsor for Carter Circle. A highlight for the

year was a book review by Mrs. Mark Majors of Texarkana and a silver tea following with donations amounting to \$124. Two silver bread trays were bought for communion and \$150 was pledged to the Youth Building Fund. The program theme for the years was "That Thy Way May Be Known Upon Earth."

Marilyn Turner was President for the next two years. The circle bought a fan and toys for the nursery department, also a drop leaf serving table for the church parlor. The girls made \$105.50 serving a Men's Fellowship banquet, \$26 on a "COME AS YOU ARE PARTY", and 103.54 on bake sales. A study course entitled "Corporate Worship" was held with the Guiding Light. Reverend Jester White was pastor of the church and Mrs. White was our sponsor.

An interesting money making project was begun during the year of 1951-52 with Esther Wayne Shadowens as President. A traveling basket was passed from one member to another during a given period with each member purchasing an article from the basket and placing another item in the basket before passing it to the next member. This project brought \$71.06. A study on Latin America was given that year. A committee was appointed to purchase lights for the church steps. At this time we began sending a memorial gift to the Methodist Home in Waco, Texas, in case of death to members of Carter Circle families.

Mary Louise Baker was Carter Circle President in 1952 and 1953 and 1954. During that time we helped redecorate a part of the parsonage. Fifty-five dollars per quarter was paid as district pledge. The circle voted to place a red rosebud on the altar honoring new babies born to members of the church. Adult Life Memberships were given to Mary Louise Baker and Ann Rowland, and Baby Life Memberships were given to Sandra Roe and Perry James Stovall.

Seventy-five new hymnals were bought for the church. We began buying Sunday School literature for the Mount Zion Colored Methodist Church and voted to be responsible for preparing communion each time it was served in the church. Mrs. Irene Ross gave Life Memberships to Frances Ross and Dorothy Pippen on behalf of Carter Circle. Reverend Joe Strother was pastor of the church and his wife, Lou, attended Carter Circle as Co-ordinator of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The President of Carter Circle in 1954 and 1955 was Dorothy Applegate. Adult Life Memberships were presented to Johnny Stout and Naomi Phillips, Baby Life Memberships to Donna Margaret Duckworth, LeAnne Duckworth, and Janis Shadowens.

The local fund provided \$194.74, a part of that amount was used to buy serving tables and other kitchen utensils. The Carter Circle helped the Guiding Light serve a layman's banquet and made \$65.00. This year there were 41 members on roll.

Carolyn Bertram was elected President for 1955 and 1956. Carter Circle visited the "Shut-ins" of our church during the year, brought used clothing to be sent to Korea, participated in the Woman's Society of Christian Service birthday celebration with each member bringing one dollar for Texas Wesley House in Houston. Many Carthage women are still using the French cook books we sold that were published by good cooks in South Louisiana. We sponsored the Joyful Blue Bird group and spent \$158.95 during the year on local church activities. Our study for the year, "Indian Americans" was held with Guiding Light in March.

For the year 1956-57 Sue Wiggins served as president. We continued to sponsor the Joyful Bluebirds, sent a box of supplies to Rusk State Hospital, paid \$25 on air conditioning for the church parlor, and served refreshments to the Abundant Life Club. There was a Tacky Party and a "Come As You Are Party" to make money. Louise LeBlanc gave a life membership to Marian Taylor on behalf of Carter Circle.

Saint Paul's Presbyterian church was built and Carter Circle purchased a communion service for them during 1957-1958. By December 1957, there was no money in the treasury and we owed \$25.62, so the Finance Committee ordered greeting cards for the members to sell to make money. Kathryn Clark served again as President of Carter Circle.

Fifty-three members were on roll in 1958 and 1959 when Jennie Buck was president. Reverend Grady Earls was pastor of the church and his wife, Nettie Mae, served as our sponsor. We paid \$100 on new carpet for the church parlor and \$56 per quarter for missions and cultivation fund.

Again, we sponsored a Camp Fire group, bought Sunday School literature for the colored church, and served refreshments twice during the year to the Abundant Life Club. A "Come As You Are Party", sale of greeting cards, and donations to the birthday box were money making projects. Jurisdictional credit was earned on study courses during the year with Carter Circle and Guiding Light participating.

In 1959-60 44 members were on roll. Melba Bustin served as President. On Halloween night we helped direct and entertain children of the town, participating in the UNICEF program. During the year members were making money from a bake sale, "Come As You Are Party," and by the sale of boxed candy. A new re-

frigerator costing \$200 was bought for the kitchen in the Youth Building.

Two hundred dollars was spent on Missions, and Life Memberships were given to Sue Wiggins, Carolyn Bertram, Jennie Buck, Melba Bustin and Frances Robinson. The highlight of the year was a book review given at Easter time by Frances Robinson entitled "The Miracle of The Cross."

Marian Taylor became President of Carter Circle in 1960 and is presently serving in that capacity. During that time we have continued to make money by selling boxed candy, "Come As You Are" parties, Bake Sales, and private donations. We serve the Abundant Life Club twice each year and recently we paid \$175 as our part on draperies for The Fellowship Hall. Today there are 35 members on roll with Esther Shadowens as president for 1962.

Since the organization of Carter Circle, communion has been of great importance to us. Each month communion is prepared by Carter Circle hostesses for that month. Through the years it has been our desire to keep communion supplies on hand for this service. The colored Methodists have been our concern also. At present Carter Circle buys Sunday School Literature for the Mt. Zion Colored Church in Carthage, and the unused literature of our church is given to Holland's Quarter Methodist Church. It is our policy in case of a death in the family of our members to send a contribution to the Methodist Home instead of flowers for the funeral. Many of the members subscribe to our church publications such as *The Methodist Woman*, *World Outlook* and *Together*.

Not only has making money and spending it for the church been of great importance to Carter Circle members, but also interesting programs and educational study courses have been given through the years.

Only the presidents have been named in this article but the accomplishments of Carter Circle have been the result of other fine officers and members too numerous to name. It is our hope and prayer that through our participation in various activities, of the church and of the Circle, we are being prepared for leadership that will be required of us in the future.

By Louise LeBlanc

The major event of 1940 was the consolidation of the work of women members of the three merging Methodist churches the previous year. It was not until September of 1940, that the women of the Texas Conference Woman's Missionary Society under the leadership of their distinguished president, Mrs. J. W. Mills, were ready to organize its successor, called The Texas Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service of The Methodist Church.

With Bishop A. Frank Smith presiding, 207 delegates at the charter meeting were called to order in the First Methodist Church of Cameron. A business session followed in which officers were elected. Bishop Smith introduced Mrs. C. F. Schaedel and retired, leaving the work in her hands.

Mrs. Horace Allison submitted this report to the Quarterly Conference: "The local Woman's Society of Christian Service held its charter meeting in September of 1940 shortly before the Conference meeting in Cameron. The spiritual uplift, the vision of a great task, and the rediscovery of the source of power constituted the real feature of the charter meeting. One hundred signed our charter roll. Later fifteen others signed the roll, giving a total of one hundred and fifteen members. These members group themselves in four divisions, Circles One and Two of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Carter Circle, and the Guiding Light Unit of the Wesleyan Service Guild."

In the following account Mrs. Calvin Voorhies tells of the organization of the Wesleyan Service Guild:

THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

The Discipline of the Methodist Church provides for Wesleyan Service Guilds, although church membership is not required. The Guild is a part of the Woman's Society of Christian Service to which it has an auxiliary relationship. Both groups work closely together, have the same basic program, support the same Methodist missionary projects, and have representation on each other's executive committee. However, the Guild has its own officers, has freedom to formulate its own plans and program, and expend its own funds, as long as it keeps within the framework and bylaws of the Woman's Division of Christian Service. The Guild meetings are held evenings and week ends when the employed woman is usually free to attend, however, there are church women enrolled in guild work because of special interests and sympathies. There may be more than one unit of the Wesleyan Service Guild in a church, and a new unit is formed when a guild becomes too large to be a good working group, marked age gap, or when members cannot all come to a meeting at the same time.

On October 10, 1940, the Guiding Light Guild was organized with Mrs. Irma Wall as the first president. Other charter members found listed were Mmes. Zela Alsup, Mattye Esther Worsham, Inez Milstead, Charlcie Whitaker, Virginia Birdwell, and Zelma Jane Sanders.

In this unit a great deal of interest has been manifested in the study courses recommended by the Texas Conference officers.

The Conference provides special teachers for the new studies of each church year, and representatives from the Guiding Light have never failed to attend these seminars which are held at Lakeview Assembly, near Palestine, Texas.

Many contributions have been made to the church by the Guiding Light Guild—a gift to the building fund, electric fans, a donation on an air conditioner for the church parlor, a projector and screen, and a light at the front steps, leading to the sanctuary. Also, during the ministry of Reverend Jester White, the Guiding Light redecorated the living room and dining room of the parsonage. They bought new wall paper, carpet, and furniture, also did some upholstery of chairs. Assistance to the Mt. Zion Negro Methodist Church of Carthage has been given several times. One year this guild awarded Vivian Weiting a \$250.00 scholarship to Lon Morris College.

Life memberships have been given to most of the members and baby memberships have been awarded to several grandchildren. The Guiding Light assists the Woman's Society in serving and entertaining the Abundant Life Club, a church organization for our senior citizens.

Money to carry on the local church activities has been raised by various projects such as selling souvenir plates of the old Panola County Courthouse, and of the new Methodist Church. Bake sales have been popular, candy, fruitcake at Christmas, and correspondence cards of all kinds. Once the Guild enjoyed sponsoring a Sunday afternoon tea, held at the home of the late Mr. Edwin Hull and Mrs. Hull, who had collected some very rare antiques.

Guiding Light members who have served as president from 1940-1960 are as follows:

Mrs. Irma Wall	1940-42
Mrs. Robert Scott	1942-44
Mrs. Herman Milstead	1944-45
Mrs. Vincent Cassity	1945-46
Mrs. Ethon Birdwell	1946-47
Mrs. Thad Edwards	1947-48
Mrs. Irma Wall	1948-49
Mrs. J. T. Wright	1949-50
Mrs. Raphael Crawford	1950-51
Mrs. Ethon Birdwell	1951-52
Mrs. L. E. Wardlaw	1952-53
Mrs. Mattye E. Worsham	1953-55
Mrs. Ora Barton	1955-56
Mrs. W. D. Cousins	1956-57
Mrs. Clarence Martin	1957-58

Mrs. Mary Brown	1958-59
Mrs. Flournoy Walker	1959-60
Mrs. Herman Jacobs	1960-61
Mrs. C. I. Voorhies	1961-62

Mrs. Lucile Voorhies has served as District Secretary for the twelve guilds in the Longview District for three years and District Chairman of Missionary Education for the church year of '61. Miss Mary Louise Baker is now serving as a district officer from the Carter Circle Guild.

At the beginning of each church year the Guiding Light Guild holds a Pledge Service at which time members are given the opportunity to offer their prayers, service, and financial support to the work of the Wesleyan Service Guild and the Woman's Division of Christian Service. To a Christian employed woman the best use of earned money includes the act of sharing it with those who are in special need. The Guiding Light members learn of these needs by careful and prayerful study of the program literature from Literature Headquarters, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati 37, Ohio.

In closing, The Guild Hymn by Georgia Harkness seems most fitting:

*This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms,
Thy kingdom come; on earth Thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all men serve Him,
And hearts united learn to live as one
Oh hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations,
Myself I give Thee, let Thy will be done.*

LUCILE VOORHIES

Circle Four

The Woman's Society of Christian Service rendered assistance in every possible way when called upon. Women of the church met in the Educational Building to make surgical dressings for the Red Cross when war broke out in 1941. Members of the Carter Circle collected newspapers, and other circles were equally faithful in their war efforts.

Four Spiritual Life groups were formed in 1942, each one meeting in homes in different sections of town. In addition to fostering spiritual growth, these units developed leadership qualities in the women who participated so faithfully.

After the building of the new church, the women continued, as always, to provide the "extras" that contributed to the comfort and beauty of the church plant and to the improvement of all phases of church activity. The Woman's Society bought an organ for the Youth Building in 1949, and they provided audiovisual equipment, including a projector and screen, for the use of the church. The landscaping of the church grounds in 1943 was another project of the Woman's Society. They also raised enough money by bake sales and dinners to purchase china, crystal, silver, and table linens to serve 250 people.

In May 1951 the first Prayer Group was organized to meet at the church each Wednesday at 8:15 A.M. for prayer and meditation. Later, a second group was formed to meet at 9:00 o'clock on Wednesday mornings. Both groups have been active and received inspiration from these meetings.

The Society has served refreshments and dinners to young people during Youth Activities Week, District and Sub-District meetings and church visitation teams. They have collected clothing for Church World Service and glasses frames for the needy, and have rendered aid to unfortunate families.

It was always a pleasure to the older women of the church to have a hand in the birth of a new circle of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. Mary Dennard tells of the organization of Circle Four:

On February 17, 1955, a group met in the church parlor to organize a circle of the Woman's Society of Christian Service for women who could not attend the afternoon meetings. There were ten present and they voted to meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:30.

This was a happy occasion for the older members of the society. They were pleased to see these young women become interested in the missionary program of the Church, and it brought back pleasant memories of a similar occasion when Circle Two was organized in 1932.

As the membership of Circle Four increased, they participated in the general meetings of the Woman's Society, in the Week of Prayer, and in other special programs. The social meetings, the Bible study, and the mission studies have been conducted as a circle. As a result of this association, the members have formed close friendships, have grown spiritually, and have been an inspiration to the other circles.

Definite action has been taken after each study, such as presenting gifts of cash to various organizations and to mission pro-

grams of the Church. "Moment by Moment", a devotional book, was given to the Church Library as an outgrowth of one of the Bible studies. A Christmas project has been sponsored annually for patients at Rusk State Hospital. This project was a result of a program held on mental health. The women felt compelled to do something to allay the loneliness and anguish of the mentally ill. This circle receives an invitation to the open house given each spring at the hospital.

This group also serves the Abundant Life Club twice a year and the Methodist Youth Fellowship on special occasions. They have sponsored the Junior Choir, re-decorated the Sunday School rooms for two-year-old children, and provided a nursery for all of their circle meetings. They alternate with the other Circles in placing flowers on the church altar. This group has helped to buy a kitchen stove for the parsonage, made contributions to CARE, and assisted with the UNICEF Halloween Party. On one occasion they presented a study in one of our rural churches. They have helped in all of the money-making projects of the society, as well as sponsoring some of their own such as "Come As You Are Coffees" and a "White Elephant Sale." Within the circle they perform many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness. When a member moves away, she is presented a book of an inspirational nature; those who are sick are remembered in a special way; and those who drop out of the circle are reminded that they are wanted and needed.

In 1959 St. Andrew's Methodist Church was organized and a number of the members of Circle Four united with this Church, thus forming a nucleus of The Woman's Society of Christian Service. Instead of being discouraged at the loss of members, faithful workers of Circle Four began recruiting new members and soon increased the number. Those who transferred to St. Andrew's Church accepted places of leadership and have been very active in the organization there.

Women who have served as chairmen are the following:

Mrs. W. D. Watts
Mrs. H. M. Woods
Mrs. Sam Maddry
Mrs. Johnnie McKay
Mrs. Lavelle Brewster
Mrs. Gene Garner
Mrs. Grady Shivers
Mrs. Wayne Dennard
Mrs. Haywood Morrison

MRS. MARY DENNARD

The year 1955 continued to be a fruitful one for the Woman's Society of Christian Service. On October 15 the women honored the members of the Wesleyan Service Guild, the Guiding Light Unit, and the Carter Circle with a dinner. The occasion marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the seventy-fifth anniversary of organized woman's work in the Methodist Church.

On January 22, 1955, 12:20 a. m. a fire in the Youth Building badly damaged the kitchen and gymnasium, and some of the china, electric cookers, and cooking utensils were a complete loss. Fortunately this loss was covered by insurance. To express appreciation of the church to the firemen for their outstanding work in saving the building, the Woman's Society honored them with a dinner on November 16, 1955.

This same day the Woman's Society, with the assistance of "Brother Joe", organized the Abundant Life Club designed for people at least sixty years of age. This group was resolved into a permanent organization with Reverend Walton Day as President, Mrs. Eva Pippen as Vice President, and Mrs. Irene Ross as Secretary. The second Wednesday afternoon of each month was chosen for the regular meeting date. It was emphasized that all older adults were welcome whether they were Methodists or members of another denomination.

Hostesses for this occasion Mesdames J. G. Strong, J. T. Wright, J. L. Horner, Mattye E. Worsham, and Joe Strother.

Charter members of the organization were Mesdames Joe Adams, W. R. Buck, Joe Fite, Anna Grimes, F. S. Midyett, Edna Nisbett, Eva Pippen, Elizabeth Pittman, Irene Ross, Malcom Shaw, Sr., Charles Wilson, J. G. Strong, Reverend and Mrs. Walton Day, D. C. Hill, J. A. Knight, and C. A. Coats. Many new members have been added to the roll since organization, and attendance is always good.

Programs are usually short, leaving time for conversation and games. The three circles of The Woman's Society, Carter Circle, and Guiding Light unit of the Wesleyan Service Guild take turns serving refreshments for two meetings during the year.

The Club is always well represented at the Older Adult Conference which meets in May at Lakeview Methodist Assembly.

A successful project in 1959 was a "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" party on Halloween. This project was an outgrowth of a study on the United Nations. Mrs. Grady LaGrone served as chairman and Don Martin, as co-chairman, of a planning committee made up of representatives of the churches, City Commission, and Police Department.

On Saturday night, October 31, children and youth met at the First Methodist Church, First Christian Church, Central Baptist Church, and Libby Cafetorium according to age groups. Cars were waiting there to take them to "trick or treat" for pennies to help underprivileged children of the world. When they returned to their respective places, games were played and refreshments provided. Other communities sent in offerings, making a total of \$314 for the project.

Both the Woman's Society and Wesleyan Service Guild have given encouragement and financial aid to the Mt. Zion Colored Methodist Church. A woman has been sent from this church to a summer training school in Tyler. The Negroes have been furnished literature, helped in their building fund, and assisted in their special meetings.

In October each year the Week of Prayer and Self-Denial is observed and an offering is sent for home and foreign work designated for that year. The Methodists unite with other denominations of the town in observing the World Day of Prayer, and at this time a free-will offering is taken for the support of special mission projects. As an outgrowth of all mission studies offerings are made regularly to further the work of the church. Life memberships given within the circles provide extra gifts for missions.

Once a year the Woman's Society has a program on the World Federation of Methodist Women of which our Woman's Division is a unit. The work of the Division is carried on through the jurisdictions, annual conferences, districts, zones, and local societies under the supervision of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Local Treasurer; and Secretaries of Missionary Education and Service, Promotion, Christian Social Relations, Spiritual Life, Student Work, Literature and Publication, Supplies, and Youth Work.

It is ever the sincere desire of the women of the Carthage Methodist Church to merit the name Woman's Society of Christian Service. Circles follow the prescribed programs and each year take special studies on the Bible, Home and Foreign Missions, and Christian Social Relations under the supervision of the Secretary of Missionary Education and Service.

Circle members are further enriched by their association with other women dedicated to the work of the church. Since 1940 the women have had a practice of dividing, by drawing names, into new circles each year. In recent years the circles have been named for the chairmen of that year. Circle Four has not been able to participate in this plan of rotating membership.

Circles for 1962 are the Josie Roberts Circle, the Sue Neal Circle, and the Lois Long Circle.

PRESIDENTS OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY WORK

The Woman's Missionary Society

Mrs. Clarra Hull	1886
(No records, 1886-1898)	
Mrs. W. P. Lawrence	1898-1918
Mrs. P. P. Long	1918-1922
Mrs. D. T. Allison	1922-1926
Mrs. B. M. Mitchell	1926-1927
Mrs. D. T. Allison	1927-1928
Mrs. R. H. Chadwick	1928-1929
Mrs. R. G. Brown	1929-1930
Mrs. B. M. Mitchell	1930-1933
Mrs. J. G. Strong	1933-1939

The Woman's Society of Christian Service

Mrs. H. R. Allison	1939-1943
Mrs. C. D. Baker	1943-1945
Mrs. H. T. Long	1945-1947
Mrs. J. W. Reeves	1947-
Mrs. Cullen Thomas	1947-1951
Mrs. C. B. Mullins	1951-1953
Mrs. R. V. Davidson	1953-1955
Mrs. J. L. Horner	1955-1956
Mrs. Mattye E. Worsham	1956-1958
Mrs. L. E. Reeves	1958-1960
Mrs. O. E. Brassell	1960-1962

Women who have served as district officers are the following: Mrs. Horace Allison, President and Promotion Secretary; Mrs. Cullen Thomas, Promotion Secretary and Status of Women; Mrs. J. L. Horner, Promotion Secretary and Spiritual Life Secretary; Mrs. J. W. Reeves, Secretary of Supplies and Secretary of Children's Work.

CONCLUSION

Surely people of Carthage can review this history of Methodism with a feeling of appreciation for the devotion and sacrifices made by these devoted workers who preceded us. We can point with special pride to the young men who have been inspired to become preachers of the Gospel.

A number of young preachers have gone out to carry on the work of the church, some from First Methodist and St. Andrew's Churches in Carthage, and some from the rural Methodist Churches of Panola County.

First Methodist Church has sent four young men into the ministry. Both Newsome Tiller and Jewel Strong were licensed to preach in 1932 when Reverend C. L. Williams was pastor. They preached their first sermons on the same day, Jewel preaching at the morning service and Newsome at the evening hour. Newsome entered the ministry in 1935 with his first appointment at Emory Point, Rains County, Tyler District. Jewel was admitted to the Conference in 1938, and his first appointment was on the Kilgore Circuit.

Guston Browning was issued a local Preacher's License in 1949. In 1951 he entered the Perkins School of Theology in Dallas where he graduated with high honors in 1953. In that same year he was sent to the Tatum Methodist Church, his first official appointment.

Ray Davidson, Jr. was licensed as a local preacher in November, 1954. His outstanding contribution to the local church was his magnificent choir. He has served the church as minister of music in Carthage, Longview, and Wichita Falls.

Two young men, Gary Chapman and Curtis Williams, from the recently organized St. Andrew's Church have been licensed to preach.

The following are names of those who were licensed to preach from rural Methodist Churches of Panola County:

William Arthur Holt	Rehobeth
Ben Ray Chamness	Rehobeth
Mouzon Biggs	Rehobeth
Donald W. Scott	Pisgah
Lane A. Scott	Pisgah
Karl Mervin Scott	Pisgah
Johnnie Maines	Ebenezer
Jessie M. Harris	Woods

Three churches have been constructed in the history of Carthage to be centers of worship and religious activity. From pioneer days Methodists have ever moved forward with zeal inspired by John Wesley to preach the Word. As the local church continues to grow, there will surely be new temples built in His Name.

NEW TEMPLES

*I think God loves New Temples built to Him,
And watches as each stone is laid on stone,
And smiles to see them laid so straight and true
Lifting the strong, wide walls to heaven's blue,
And when the carpenters have done with them,
And each new Church stands finished and alone
When dusk sifts violet shadows through the glass
Of painted windows, I think that God must pass
Between the new dim aisles and stopping where
The last light falls across His shining hair
He kneels and holds the first Communion there.*

—Lexie Dean Robertson

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